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# BAY AREA REPORTER

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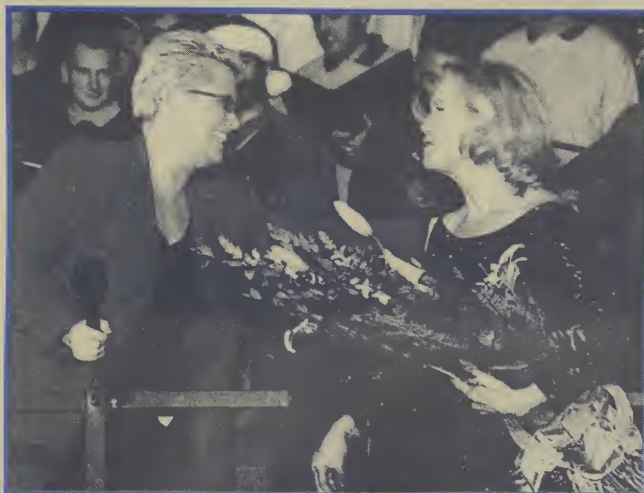
## Knoller may get paroled this week

by Ed Walsh

Marjorie Knoller, the woman convicted in connection with the fatal dog mauling of Diane Whipple, may be paroled as early as this week and may be forced to serve her three-year parole term away from her husband, Robert Noel, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

In an exclusive interview with the *B.A.R.*, Noel said that he was informed by parole officials last week that Knoller likely will be freed on New Year's Eve. The Department of Corrections had previously said that Knoller would not be paroled until March. Noel said he never believed that estimate because from his experience as an attorney working on cases in the state prison system, he knew Knoller would be released much sooner under the formula that the

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Rick Genauer

## Holiday cheer in the Castro

Kathleen McGuire, left, artistic director and conductor of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, hands a bouquet to Meg Mackay, who was a guest performer at the chorus' 14th annual "Home for the Holidays" concert December 24 at the Castro Theatre. The chorus performed holiday favorites and songs in celebration of many traditions, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Winter Solstice.

## AIDS czar position up in air

by Matthew S. Bajko

As Mayor-elect Gavin Newsom prepares to take office next week, uncertainty surrounds who he will tap as part of his administration. And there is growing debate over whether a new AIDS czar will move into City Hall.

The Mayor's Office of AIDS has remained dormant for more than two years since current AIDS czar Mike Shriver went out on disability leave in September 2001. The office's tasks have largely been taken up by the health department's Office of AIDS, headed by Jimmy Loyce.

During the campaign, Newsom repeatedly said he wanted to revive the office. In a fall meeting to discuss policy directions, leaders of AIDS service organizations cited filling the AIDS czar position as a top priority.

With the Ryan White CARE Act up for reauthorization this year, many see the AIDS czar as playing a key role in ensuring Congress renews the legislation. The person would also be a key lobbyist in seeing the city's share of federal funding increased, or at the minimum, maintained at current levels.

However, with the new mayor already facing a \$160 million budget deficit, some question the need to keep the \$50,000-a-year position. For two years the city has lived without such a person, and critics contend there is no need for it in Newsom's administration.

"Have you noticed it when it was gone?"

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Gavin Newsom

# The highs and lows of 2003

compiled by Cynthia Laird

It was another year of news large and small in the Bay Area for the LGBT community. What follows are some of the highlights and lowlights as seen in the pages of the *Bay Area Reporter* during 2003.



Carole Migden was sworn in by City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

### January

The year started on a positive note, when out lesbian **Carole Migden** was sworn in as a member of the California Board of Equalization by City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** on January 6. Migden was made chairwoman of the board, and later implemented rule changes relating to property assessments for domestic partners.

On January 9 Board of Supervisors President **Matt Gonzalez** announced an effort to raise funds for a bust of the late Supervisor **Harvey Milk** that would be installed in City Hall.

Lesbian **Susan Kennedy**, one of Governor **Gray Davis**'s top political aides, was appointed to the powerful California Public Utilities Commission. Kennedy's partner,

**Vicki Marti**, was named to a seat on the California Medical Assistance Commission.



Antiwar protesters held a "die-in" in the Castro.

Queers joined thousands of other Bay Area residents in a massive antiwar demonstration on January 18 as President Bush moved toward war with Iraq.

**Bob Farrar**, co-owner of the Watergarden bathhouse in San Jose, died December 27, 2002 after battling lymphoma. He was 60.

Governor Davis named **Daniel Zingale**, an openly gay man, as his Cabinet secretary. Zingale filled the position vacated by Susan Kennedy when she was tapped for the CPUC. Zingale is a well-known AIDS and healthcare activist and advocate who previously ran the state's Department of Managed Health Care.

**Hywel Sims**, 44, was named executive director of Shanti. The organization provides practical support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Face to Face in Sonoma County named **Rick Dean** as its executive director.

**Mary Dunlap**, the openly lesbian head of the Office of Citizen Complaints, died January 17 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was 54. Dunlap was perhaps best known for arguing

in favor of the Gay Olympic Games before the U.S. Supreme Court, although she lost the case and the athletic event is now called the Gay Games.

**Felicia Park-Rogers** resigned as executive director of Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere after taking maternity leave and deciding she wanted to be a full-time parent.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation on January 30 announced more budget cuts and staff layoffs (the first round of cuts was made in 2002). Executive Director **Pat Christen** said that the foundation was facing a \$700,000 shortfall for the rest of 2003. The staff was reduced by about 20 employees.

### February

A drug resistant type of staph infection hit the gay community in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Public health officials convened a community meeting in an effort to get the word out to men who have sex with men.

After seven years on the lam, convicted gay basher **Jonathan Bell** finally appeared in San Francisco Superior Court January 27 to face sentencing in a 1995 attack on **Ronald Bennett**. Bell failed to appear in court in 1996 for sentencing following his conviction. While on the run, Bell had fled to Utah where he was arrested on felony drug charges in 1998 and drug and fraud charges in 2000.

**Jeanette Gurevitch**, a Bay Area psychotherapist and co-founder of Rainbow Adult Community Housing organization (now Openhouse) died January 21 of cardiac arrest. She was 54.

A February 6 protest against mayoral candidate Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** turned ugly when several members of Gay Shame were injured after clashing with police. The protest took place outside the LGBT Community

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# Amendment fight looms

by Matthew S. Bajko

**N**o longer burdened with having to convince California voters to support domestic partner rights, local gay lawmakers are now free to wage a national battle for gay marriage rights.

The inability of antigay lawmakers to place a referendum to repeal AB205, the sweeping domestic partners bill set to become law in 2005, on either the March or November ballots has freed up pro-gay politicians' and rights groups' time and money to focus on other legislative battles. The top priority is passing a resolution opposing the Federal Marriage Amendment now before Congress.

"Our first action upon reconvening the first week in January will be an introduction of a resolution that will put California on record opposing any federal effort to amend the U.S. Constitution in a discriminatory fashion," said openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), the chair of the Legislature's LGBT Caucus.

The caucus, comprised of the five openly gay members of the state Legislature, will also be fighting a proposed cap to the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program as well as making the state's antidiscrimination laws consistent in language. They will no doubt also be campaigning to elect a sixth member to the caucus, Carole Migden (D).

Migden, a lesbian and chair of the state Board of Equalization, is running practically unopposed to replace term-out state Senate President John Burton (D-San Francisco.) While on the taxation board this past year, Migden, a former San Francisco supervisor and state assemblywoman, successfully fought to change property taxation rules so domestic partners are treated the same as married heterosexual couples.

The new laws mirror San Francisco rules that exempt property from being reassessed when a domestic partner dies. Threats by conservatives and county assess-

sors to sue to overturn the changes have yet to materialize.

Along with hosting a series of meetings of his Select Committee on LGBT Families, Leno is also attempting to have his colleagues pass AB685, a bill that would allow HIV counselors to give a patient an HIV rapid test.

The bill would exempt HIV counselors from being required to possess a high school diploma or a GED, and require the state Department of Health Services to develop a new curriculum for HIV counselor training that includes the same training as required of a limited phlebotomy technician.

Due to current requirements regulating who can administer an HIV rapid test, most of the state's health departments have been slow in offering the new test. San Francisco is the first city in the state to offer rapid HIV testing at a wide variety of city- and community-run clinics.

Last September, Leno introduced the measure as an urgency bill, which would take effect immediately after passage. But he said it became victim of partisan bickering.

"Republicans were upset over the budget negotiations and withheld any support for all of our urgency bills," said Leno.

An urgency bill requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Due to the makeup of the Legislature, without Republican support it cannot pass.

Despite his frosty welcome from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has yet to accept an invitation to meet with the LGBT Caucus, Leno predicted that in January, "I expect to have bipartisan support and expect the governor to sign it."

How much the LGBT Caucus will be able to accomplish this year is reliant upon the new governor's support. In 2003, the caucus was able to push through four significant pieces of legislation, including a statewide equal benefits ordinance modeled after San Francisco's measure and protections for gay foster children and parents.

Their success came from hard

work as well as from the recall effort against Governor Gray Davis. Trying to court the gay vote, Davis did not block any of the legislation from coming to his desk.

While Schwarzenegger has been defined as being pro-gay, it remains to be seen if he will actually sign pro-gay legislation. During his race to replace Davis, it was reported he would not have signed AB205 into law.

Leno has said what legislation the caucus does try to bring to the governor's desk will be shaped by community input he receives at the meetings of his committee later this month.

Gay rights groups are also vague about what legislation they would like to see introduced. While they do not have to defeat a referendum, they are still focused on fighting a lawsuit against AB205.

Geoffrey Kors, Equality California executive director, said, "With the steadfast support of our members, we plan to carry our momentum forward into 2004. Our new governor has stated that he supports 'equal rights for all,' and that 'gay couples are entitled to full protection under the law and should not be discriminated against based on their relationship.' We look forward to working with Governor Schwarzenegger and his administration on these critical family issues."

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, also spoke in vague terms when asked what the legislative agenda for 2004 should be.

"I think it is incredibly important that we continue to do one-on-one, community-to-community education around the reality of our lives and how our families suffer in midst of tragedy. Because we still, even with all the gains, lack full legal recognition and protections for our relationships."

No matter what LGBT lawmakers and activists pursue in the new year, Kendell said it will still require "rolling up our sleeves, being political and one-on-one engagement." ▼

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# Gays protest possible beach bonfire ban

by Matthew S. Bajko

The possibility of a National Park Service ban on bonfires at Ocean Beach is sparking protest from members of San Francisco's LGBT community.

Ocean Beach residents have complained for years about the smoke and soot from the bonfires at Ocean Beach. Easterly winds can push the smoke over vast stretches of neighborhoods located north and south of Golden Gate Park.

Officials with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area have decided to examine their bonfire policy, and are expected to make a decision at their meeting on January 20. The parks group has asked the public to send in comments by January 9.

Park officials reportedly favor restricting bonfires to a small stretch of beach between Lincoln and Fulton along the Great Highway. Comments from the public so far have called for everything from a total ban to unfettered access to the entire beach.

Whatever policy is adopted could impact several gay groups who regularly use the beach for bonfires. Most do not believe the current rules need to be changed.

"Delta Lambda Phi is only one of many groups that find holding bonfires on the beach an amazing way to bond with members — and one of the few methods available for getting 'back to nature' within the city. It's hard to believe smoke from a simple bonfire would create enough of a problem for area residents that it requires passing legislation against it," said Paul Pratt, president of the national gay

fraternity's San Francisco Zeta chapter, in an e-mail.

Bonfires on the beach are a tradition for the Zeta chapter, and Pratt said it would be a shame for future members not to be able to experience it.

"We feel use of the bonfires is a method of bringing our brothers closer together. In fact, men have driven all the way from our Sacramento chapter to participate in these rituals of passage," said Pratt. "If bonfires are restricted to only a portion of the beach, the privacy available to us will be severely limited."

Greg Taylor also is against restricting bonfires on the beach. The party promoter is gearing up to once again hold his monthly bonfires, which have drawn up to 300 people on a Friday night. In February he is planning to host one specifically for the International Bear Rendezvous crowd.

"Bonfires are really special because a lot of people make friends in a way you couldn't meet them otherwise," said Taylor. "If you recognize someone from a bonfire, you have a shared experience with them."

Ten years ago Taylor started his bonfire parties, pulling club kids in their platform shoes and extravagant garb off the dance floor and onto the beach. When he returned in 2002 from a sojourn in London he decided to start them up again in order to meet people.

"My best friends quickly became the bonfire boys," he said. "In the gay community there aren't a lot of ways to meet people in a non-commercial setting. Here you have no commercial incentive whatsoever. You just stare at the

water, stare at the fire, stare at the stars, or stare at the moon."

Current rules require anyone hosting a bonfire with more than 20 people to obtain a permit. After experiencing problems with the police over the size of the crowds at his bonfires, Taylor had decided to end the monthly gatherings.

"I knew it was too big for the cops," he said. But he added, "I want to be able to do them periodically."

He is pulling a permit to host the bear weekend bonfire and is voicing his concerns to park officials on proposed changes to their bonfire policy.

"One of the problems San Francisco has is NIMBY [not in my backyard] activism. The fact is we do a bonfire once a month and these people live there everyday. It gives them more incentive to whine more," he said.

Taylor intends to notify the more than 400 people on his e-mail list to write park officials and express support for the bonfires. He noted the police already ask people not to burn their fires above stairwell 13 so as to avoid sending smoke directly at the condos across the street.

"I am against a total ban on bonfires. It would just be a really sorry solution," he said. "I say, keep it as is and enforce the 20-person limit and make permits available."

To provide comment, parks officials can be reached via the Internet at [www.nps.gov/goga](http://www.nps.gov/goga). Click on "Contact Us" for an e-mail form. Letters can also be sent to Superintendent, GGNRA, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, 94123. ▽

## Knoller

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Department of Corrections must follow.

Noel, 62, was paroled in September to Fairfield (Solano County), about an hour northeast of San Francisco. He and Knoller, 48, were convicted in March 2002 of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. Prosecutors convinced a jury that the attorney couple ignored warnings that their dogs were dangerous. Noel was released before Knoller because he worked in prison. Corrections officials have said that Knoller has not worked, likely because of health concerns.

Noel said he was told that Knoller would be dropped off at a bus station in Chowchilla, about 150 miles southeast of San Francisco,

near the state women's prison where she is serving her time. Noel said his wife would then have to take a bus to Ventura County, in Southern California, where she will have to serve her parole.

Noel said the state is setting his wife up for failure because she is physically and emotionally unable to live on her own. He said he is working three jobs now, has a one-bedroom apartment, and is able to support her until she can get back on her feet.

"It's either mindless stupidity or malice, take your choice," Noel told the B.A.R.

Noel said Knoller will be given \$200 when she leaves prison and will probably be provided a room in a cheap motel in a high crime area, as he was. Noel explained that it was much easier for him than it would be for his wife or any woman to get by in that type of environment.

AIDS czar, the person said the community should be fighting to ensure that openly gay Dr. Mitch Katz remains as head of the Department of Public Health. Katz, the person argued, should be the mayor's point man on AIDS policies, not an AIDS czar.

"When Mitch comes out and starts talking about cutting back stuff at DPH, he makes his decisions based on science and need. [The AIDS czar] only gives a political place to do an end run," the person said. "The people lining up for that stuff are like pigs at a trough."

Jim Illig, the chair of Newsom's

transition team working group on health and human services, said he expects his committee will make a recommendation on whether to keep the AIDS czar position.

"I am not saying we need to get rid of this. I am just saying it is one of the things we will look at. It is part of the larger question of what is the best way to have a comprehensive, coordinated approach to serving people with HIV?" said Illig, director of government relations at Project Open Hand. "There has always been a lot of controversy with that posi-

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## AIDS czar

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It is a useless, useless position. If I was given it, the first thing I would do is shut it down," said one longtime critic of the position who spoke to the Bay Area Reporter on the condition of anonymity. "It is just there for the [AIDS] agencies and the last thing we should do is give more power to the agencies. Shriver was decent. He had activist cred and you are not going to get anyone with activist cred to do it."

Instead of fighting to keep the



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# Canadian high court upholds pot penalties

by Liz Highleyman

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld that country's laws against marijuana possession, ruling December 23 that they do not violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

According to the 6-3 decision, "There is no free-standing constitutional right to smoke 'pot' for recreational purposes."

The ruling is the outcome of three lawsuits (later combined) in which plaintiffs claimed that the potential harms related to marijuana use — which impact only the user — do not justify criminal sanctions including imprisonment. Government lawyers countered that the laws should stand unless changed by Parliament, a position affirmed by the high court.

"We conclude that it is within Parliament's legislative jurisdiction to criminalize the possession of marijuana, should it choose to do so," read the ruling. "Equally, it is open to Parliament to decriminalize or otherwise modify any aspect of the marijuana laws that it no longer considers to be good public policy."

"Those justices are a bunch of Grinches," co-plaintiff and marijuana law reform activist David Malmo-Levine told the *Drug War Chronicle*. "They ruined Christmas for over 3 million Canadians."

While the court's majority held that evidence exists of "both use and misuse by chronic users and by vulnerable groups who cause harm to themselves," the dissenting justices countered that there

was little data to support such public health claims.

"Canadians do not expect to go to jail whenever they embark on some adventure which involves a possibility of injury to themselves," wrote Justice Louise Arbour for the minority. "I see no reason to single out those who may jeopardize their health by smoking marijuana."

Last week's decision is the latest wrinkle in a convoluted series of legal reversals over the past few years. In 2000, the Ontario high court said that existing cannabis laws were invalid because they did not provide an exception for medical use, and gave Parliament one year to change the law. In 2003, after the legislature failed to do so, courts in Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia ruled that laws against personal marijuana possession were void, effectively decriminalizing cannabis use for a few months. Last October, an Ontario appeals court threw out what it deemed to be overly restrictive portions of Health Canada's Medical Marijuana Access Regulations. With medical access thus assured, the court declared that the federal marijuana laws were once again valid.

With the Supreme Court's latest ruling, the marijuana issue returns to the legislative arena. The new Canadian Prime Minister, Paul Martin, has said he intends to introduce a marijuana law reform

bill when Parliament reconvenes in January. His predecessor, Jean Chrétien, introduced such legislation this past fall, but it had not been acted upon when Parliament adjourned in November.

Canadian federal officials have emphasized that the proposed legislation will not decriminalize marijuana, but will rather change the approach to enforcement. For simple possession of small amounts of cannabis, the new law will impose a fine rather than criminal charges. But penalties will increase for large-scale cultivation and trafficking.

Such reassurances — and the fact that 10 U.S. states have effectively decriminalized personal marijuana use — has not stopped criticism from south of the border. U.S. Drug Czar John Walters, Canadian Ambassador Paul Cellucci, and Representative Mark Souder (R-Indiana) all have warned against any effort to liberalize Canadian cannabis laws.

Nevertheless, both the Canadian House and Senate have issued reports calling for marijuana law reform, and polls show that a majority of the population supports cannabis decriminalization.

"Canada needs to look beyond our closest neighbor and come up with a comprehensive and safe marijuana policy," said Vancouver Member of Parliament Libby Davies. "The U.S.-driven 'War on Drugs' is not a Canadian-made solution." ▼

## HRC LGBT advisory panel seeks members

by Liz Highleyman

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission is currently seeking new members.

LGBTAC, created in 1980, is one of the HRC's four standing committees, and one of the most active. The committee researches issues, holds hearings with experts and community members, and advises the larger HRC.

LGBTAC identifies and addresses concerns of the LGBT community, including economic issues and the needs of non-traditional families. Past work of the committee has led to city legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status, or domestic partner status. Last year LGBTAC focused on senior issues, transgender and intersex issues, homeless youth, and breast cancer in lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women.

LGBTAC is seeking community activists with knowledge and experience in areas such as anti-violence, HIV/AIDS and health, civil rights, class, disability, education, gender and women's issues, and/or youth issues. The HRC is also recruiting for its Employment Committee, Minority/Women Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, and Issues Committee (which deals with housing, hate crimes, police/community relations, public accommodations, and related areas). Applicants must be residents of San Francisco and must commit to attending monthly committee meetings and spending additional time on special projects.

Prospective members should send a letter describing their areas of expertise and community involvement and why they are interested in serving on the committee. Send letters to Janel Wong, SF Human Rights Commission, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94120-6033; fax to 415-431-5764; or e-mail to janel\_wong@sfgov.com. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 15. ▼

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2003

◀ page 1

Center, where Newsom was hosting a benefit for the center. Four Gay Shamers were arrested during the melee.

San Francisco State University on February 20 launched the National Sexuality Resource Center, the first of its kind in the country. **Gilbert Herdt**, head of the Human Sexuality Studies program at SFSU, said the center will serve as a clearinghouse, providing a credible source for the latest research on human sexuality.

LGBTs continue to protest what increasingly looks like war with Iraq.

## March

The gay community reacted with mixed emotions to the indictments of police Chief **Earl Sanders** and most of his command staff in connection with the street fight in November 2002 involving three off-duty officers, including **Alex Fagan Jr.**, son of Assistant Chief **Alex Fagan Sr.** who was also indicted. Charges against the command staff were dropped the next week. Sanders retired in the summer, and Fagan Sr. was named police chief.

The Positive Resource Center hired **Brett Andrews** as its executive director.

**Michael Jendritza**, 47, a nurse in the AIDS unit at San Francisco General Hospital, died March 6, apparently of a drug overdose.



Alice Molloy of Mama Bear's

Mama Bear's, a historic women's bookstore in Oakland, closed March 14. Owners **Alice Molloy**, 67, and **Carol Wilson**, 68, said they were retiring and a potential buyer for the business fell through, leaving the Bay Area with one less gathering place for women.

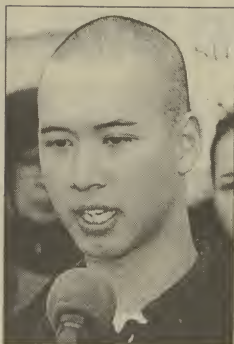
War started between the U.S. and Iraq. President Bush's ultimatum to **Saddam Hussein** ended on March 19 and the bombs started dropping. Queers took to the streets of San Francisco on March 20 joined by thousands of others opposed to the war as massive antiwar demonstrations broke out all over the city.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, based in San Francisco, hired **Paula Ettelbrick** as its executive director.

Artist and AIDS dissident **Ronnie Burk** died March 12, following a series of strokes that left him partially paralyzed. He was 47.

## April

Gay Marine reservist **Stephen Funk**, 20, created waves on April 1 when he sought conscientious ob-



Gay Marine Stephen Funk

ject status after going AWOL. Gays who opposed the war hailed Funk as a hero — he said he was against the war — while others in the community labeled him a coward as he willingly enlisted in the service. Funk did not emphasize his sexual orientation when he declared his objection to fighting, a move that also earned him criticism.

At about the same time, gays who support the war spoke out — though not always openly. "There are plenty of gay people who support the war," one man told the

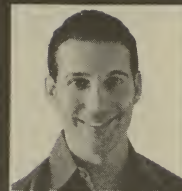
B.A.R., though he refused to give his name because he feared retaliation from the progressive left. **Tom Stanley**, a gay San Francisco resident, was more forthcoming. "I'm coming out of the closet in support of our troops," he said.

The San Francisco Fire Department stepped up inspections of bars for allegedly violating their capacity limits, following a tragedy in Rhode Island when 100 people lost their lives after a fire broke out in a crowded bar. The fire department said it was not targeting gay bars, although several were inspected.

Gay Comix artist **Michael Goldberg**, formerly of California, died in Portland, Oregon on March 5. He was 51.

A study released in April called into question the effectiveness of the city's policy to close the gay bathhouses in the 1980s to help stem the AIDS epidemic. Researchers found that prohibiting private spaces in the bathhouses did not affect whether men engaged in unprotected anal intercourse. But **William Woods**, the study's lead author, cautioned that the report did not answer whether

page 10 ►



Victor Barcellona, DDS

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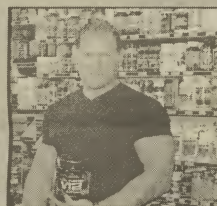
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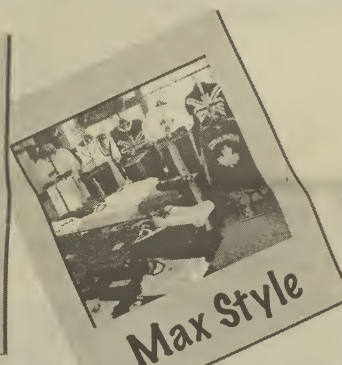
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## Moving forward into 2004

As 2003 comes to a close, the LGBT community can take pride in several milestones that have moved gay issues to the forefront of the public debate. No longer are we regulated to the fringe of the far right or the far left – in our mind, 2003 will be remembered for the crucial leap forward into the mainstream, as communities large and small grappled with various LGBT concerns. There have been victories and defeats. We have made great progress, yet as in years past there is much work to be done.

When the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision last June striking down sodomy laws, it was like a burden had been lifted from our collective shoulders. The justices had, in one major decision, effectively told the country that consenting adults of any sexual orientation have a right to privacy with respect to what goes on in the bedrooms of private residences. The *Lawrence v. Texas* ruling overturned one of the court's most egregious errors – the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision – and made gay sex legal. Critics bemoaned the ruling as opening the door to gay marriage, and of course far right icons from the pope on down issued condemnations. The pope reiterated his opposition to gay rights this week, when he again called for politicians to oppose any law that would give equal rights to same-sex couples.

The pope, President Bush, and others opposed to gay marriage should wake up and realize that government can't deny us equality for much longer. That point was brought home in fine fashion in November, when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that same-sex couples have the right to be married in that state. The court gave the Massachusetts Legislature 180 days to come up with a solution and the clock has been ticking ever since. While lawmakers reportedly want the court to sanction a Vermont-style civil union law, the justices made it clear that marriage was the remedy. We'll be following this story as it progresses in 2004.

Gay rights advocates must sharpen their arguments in favor of same-sex marriage,

and must continue working to sway public opinion. We must seize the offense and stop playing catch-up with the homophobes. Conservative pundits go unchallenged every time they appear in the media, not having to explain why they consider same-sex civil marriage a threat to heterosexuals. That marriage "needs protecting" – their favorite sound bite – is a fundamentally unsound argument that doesn't hold up to scrutiny. And we're especially tired of the president repeatedly telling us how "tolerant" he is when he's held hostage to the right-wing of his party over gay issues.

We know that Bush has gay appointees working for his administration, we know that he has gay supporters. Those gay supporters, including the folks at Log Cabin Republicans and the Republican Unity Coalition, must shake off the "get along, go

along" attitude that has characterized their organizations and start pressing Republicans in Congress to oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment that would alter the Constitution and ban same-sex marriages. This amendment, introduced in the House and Senate by extremely conservative members of the GOP, must not succeed in Congress. If the gay Republican groups can't do it themselves, they should team up with other organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. This is a bipartisan issue, and is one that should unite our community. No matter what one's personal belief is when it comes to

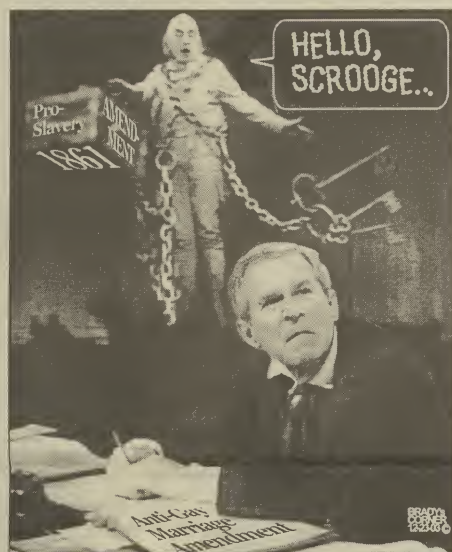
marriage, the greater community should have that option as a matter of equal – not special – rights.

So that's our challenge for the next year – working together, the FMA must be defeated before it gets out of Congress.

## Postscript

We told you that we would let you know if we heard from Daniel Okrent, the public editor at the *New York Times* to whom we e-mailed a copy of last week's editorial, "A matter of balance." The editorial called into question the balance of a December 21 page one story on the opposition to gay marriage. Well, we did hear from Mr. Okrent, who promptly returned our e-mail message last week. He told us that while he's "quite certain" that he will be addressing the gay marriage issue in a future column, he registers "slight disagreement" with our view of the *Times*' coverage of gay marriage. ▼

## Editorial



## Center welcomes the community

by Thom Lynch

The past year was historic for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Issues affecting each of us are front and center in the minds of the Bay Area, the state, the country, and the world. The U.S. Supreme court ruling, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling, changes in Canada, the signing of laws in California for transgender rights and domestic partnership laws, and the ordination of the first openly gay Episcopalian bishop in New Hampshire are all significant steps in our long march toward equality. No doubt our community and our issues will be under attack during the next year as the presidential race swings into full speed.

The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center was proud to be host to the signing of the domestic partnership law and celebrations for many other gains this year. Despite the growing pains of our first year, the center is truly becoming our community's home and a rallying point for our movement. Up to 9,000 people visit nearly 300 events or meetings at the center each month. We are now host to innovative programs to care for our youth, economic development, and support our art programs.

We still have a long way to go. It is easy to look at these successes and at the relative freedom we enjoy in San Francisco and believe that there is little more for us to do as a community. Yet, unemployment in the transgender community is a staggering 70 percent. Queer youth looking for a safe place to be themselves still pour into a city ill-equipped to deal with them, many ending up homeless and hungry. HIV rates continue to climb, and drug use is beyond

recreational for many.

Over the next year, the center will continue to build on its successes and address many of these important issues. In November, the center hosted and co-sponsored a youth HIV prevention forum with more than a hundred young people participating. We will build on that success and look for other ways we can support service providers and community leaders in their work.

The city's youth drop-in program, now housed at the community center, is seeing more visitors than ever. We hope to be able to expand this program into longer drop-in hours and late night activities. By being at the LGBT Community Center, this program allows our queer youth to be better integrated into other parts of our community, helping to alleviate isolation. Working with Supervisor Bevan Dufty, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, and other community groups, we hope to advocate for more services to help get youth off the streets and into programs that provide real opportunity for a safer, more productive life.

Our economic development programming is the first of its kind in the country. It will provide opportunity for all members of our community to access skills and capital for starting businesses. We will work with national companies on diversity issues to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender business owners will receive contracts for services. We will work with other service providers in San Francisco to develop job skills and opportunities for employment for all members of our community. We will soon hold our first job fair, connecting queer employees with

companies seeking workplace diversity. We will also begin work to bring home ownership opportunities to more LGBT San Franciscans.

Additionally, we will continue to support programs that celebrate our art and culture. We will work with community members to try to secure funding for new and exciting art programming, such as a Latino queer music festival. The Queer Cultural Center will once again hold its national Queer Arts Festival at the center in June.

The past year saw the center welcome members from the only lesbian organization in Russia, and hosted a reception for Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon celebrating their 50 years of love and work for this community. We hope to build on these and other programs to ensure that the lesbian

community has a home at the center.

The LGBT community in San Francisco has a great responsibility. As I travel throughout the United States and to other countries, the interest in what we are doing here is tremendous. We provide a vision of what life can be like. It's not a responsibility we can take lightly. Each of us must stay involved politically and socially. We must continue to build equality and opportunity for each of us. We need to continue to invest in our local organizations and fight for causes in which we believe. We hold a special and privileged place in the world. The LGBT Community Center can help build on our legacy, and with your help, we will. ▼

Thom Lynch is the executive director of the LGBT Community Center. For more information, visit [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org).

## Guest Opinion

## LETTERS

## Heklina responds

While I stand by my opinion that the entire Trannyshack blackface scandal was little more than a gross overreaction (must have been a slow news week), and I am really fed up with the whole subject, nevertheless I feel compelled to write in response to the opinions expressed in your story last week by members of the performance troupe Other Brothers [*"Local blackface performance sparks anger," December 25*]. They really were insufferable.

First of all, you don't know me and I doubt that you've ever even attended Trannyshack, so do not attempt to speak for me. I don't expect the "community" (I've borrowed your quotation marks) to accept or brush off anything I do or produce, nor do I need them to defend me in any way against antitrans, anti-queer, transphobic, etc., incidences. I am quite capable of taking care of myself, thank you.

Secondly, I find so boring and predictable your assertion that a blackface performance, or for that matter any performance with any sort of a racial overtone, has to be accompanied by an implicitly political antiracist message. What a dull world you must live in. Any adult, be they black, white, or whatever, who is so stupid that they can't watch a performance and judge for themselves (yes, for themselves!) whether it is meant to be satirical, ironic, or humorous really should be kept under lock and key – for they pose a threat to themselves and others.

And lastly, yes, I do think you are too sensitive, and you have no sense of humor.

Heklina  
San Francisco

## Racial dialogue needed

Congratulations to the B.A.R. for Zak Szymanski's excellent page one article on an issue that needs airing and discussion (*"Local blackface performance sparks anger," December 25*). Trannyshack's Heklina is simply wrong in describing the criticism as an "overreaction."

Spoofing and satire are legitimate but they can go too far and cause real pain. It takes judgment to know where the line is.

Some members of the GLBT community apparently think that because we've been victims ourselves of discrimination, we are somehow exempt from standards of civility. That attitude is shortsighted. I hope this incident stimulates some needed dialogue among GLBT people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Jeff Stone  
Milton, Massachusetts

## Performer responds

Having participated off and on in the Trannyshack drag show since 1997, I was surprised to discover that my latest performance led to a front page article in your paper. Under my drag name Deer, I have pretended to be a lot of different things on stage: woman, child, Muslim, crack whore, Nazi, leather fag, disillusioned neon, and a person in love with a chicken, just to name a few. Of course, I am none of these things, and I rarely attempt to look like the "real thing" on stage; my "women" are crude and often hysterical, my "children" a little slow in the head, my "gay men" shallow and sex-crazed, and so on. They are all caricatures, a fiction of my imagination based on what I see in our society, and I treat most of them very respectfully.

Yet it is not until I do a caricature of a racial stereotype that "community members" – in this case represented by an anonymous poster on craigslist – becomes angry. Am I to understand that it is okay to poke fun at every stereotype there is – except racial ones? Sorry, I did not get that memo.

I am well aware of the history of blackface and how it has been used to ridicule and oppress African Americans, and it delights me that my performance has inspired members of our community to discuss the fact that most of the San Francisco gay scene is geared toward white males. I will continue to portray all kinds of people on the Trannyshack stage and I hope to see more persons of color doing the same.

Oh, and by the way, I'm mixed race, Swedish and Caribbean. Doesn't that make it biologically impossible for me to be racist?

Daniel Kindstedt  
San Francisco

## Newsom was at Milk March

In your December 25 letters to the editor, Alan Collins wrote "Boo hoo ... perhaps [Carole] Migden would have walked with Gavin Newsom too, had he deigned to attend the [Milk/Moscone memorial] march."

Mayor-elect Newsom did in fact attend the march. He and several of his supporters walked silently without fanfare, signs, or campaign buttons. We marched just behind the Moscone family and just ahead of the Milk Club contingent.

John C. McCutchen  
San Francisco

## Newsom was there

In the next four years, I expect that there will be many legitimate disagreements with Mayor-elect Newsom over policy. We won't need to manufacture issues. However, despite Alan Collins' personal attack in asserting otherwise, Gavin Newsom did march in the November 23 Milk-Moscone Memorial March. He was in the front of the march behind the children carrying the lead banner. He did not march behind the Harvey Milk LGBT banner with Carole Migden, Matt Gonzalez, Aaron Peskin, Terence Hallinan, and others, but he was there.

P.S. My sympathies on the death of Bob Ross.

Bill Wilson  
San Francisco

## Stray animals are better than Gay Shamers

I had to laugh at the childish flyers Gay Shame put up around SOMA to protest the alleged discrimination that GLBT people face at local queer owned GLBT businesses. Are they serious? They are!

The only people in our community being discriminated at GLBT businesses are the Gay Shamers themselves, who frankly deserve it.

This gang of thugs thinks that merely announcing their sexuality/skin color/gender is a justification for screaming and cursing at people, threatening people with violence, and defacing property, and they do not distinguish between right-wing Christians and queers when they behave this way.

According to Gay Shame, the solution to the homeless problem here is to provide everyone with a lifelong free ride, no questions asked. They claim it is "racist and homophobic" to get people into counseling, rehab, and back on their own two feet.

Gay Shame also feels that it is "racist and homophobic" to hold anyone accountable for the choices they make in their own lives, and woe be it to anyone who disagrees with them.

I cannot think of even one single event, including GLBT events, where Gay Shame showed up with any agenda other than being disruptive, annoying people, and making enemies for the entire community. They have actively worked to turn our supporters against us.

No group has ever deserved to be shut out of community events more than the obnoxious children in Gay Shame. Stray animals behave better than they do. I say ban them from attending any and all GLBT events now and forever. Let them babble about "their rights" all they want to. Ignore them.

There is one instance when discrimination is justifiable. You can discriminate against people if they're obnoxious. Around here, no one proves this to be true more than Gay Shame.

David Alexander  
San Francisco

## 'Strange' eye on the Castro

Arcadia Publishing has just printed my photo history *San Francisco's Castro*, covering 1880 to the present. Readers watch a quiet Irish Catholic neighborhood suddenly add "World's Gay Mecca" to its list of attractions, see how opposites learned to live in harmony. Whether readers use this knowledge to bring about world peace is entirely up to them. I've created a free Web site where B.A.R. readers can view lots of bonus Castro photos and links. It's at (note there's no "www") <http://members.aol.com/strangeastro/>. When I turned in the manuscript the Arcadia editor wailed, "This is nothing like our other 'Image of America' books!" Amen.

Strange de Jim  
San Francisco

[Editor's note: See the story on Strange de Jim's new book on the cover of the arts section in today's paper.]

## GAWKers unite

The Gay Artists & Writers Collective will be hosting a show for the community at Magnet, 4122 18th Street. This will be a free, live show at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 3, including a short film by David Lamble about AIDS followed by a conversation with Lamble and Jon Sugar. Lamble is the current host of the queer film show "Straightjacket" on KALX, 90.7 FM. Sugar is a writer, stand-up comic, and original lead singer of the seminal punk band White Trash Debutantes.

Videomakers, writers, musicians, and other artists are especially encouraged to attend. Magnet is a space for free HIV testing and community events. GAWK is a social group for people involved in the arts. For information about GAWK, call (415) 731-2424.

Keith Baraka  
GAWK Minister of Information  
San Francisco

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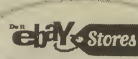
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# Who was Brandon Teena?

by Liz Highleyman

December 31, 1993 (10 years ago  
this week): Brandon Teena is mur-  
dered in Humboldt, Nebraska.

**T**he brutal murder of Brandon Teena, a biological female who lived as a man, focused attention on violence against transgender people and played a major role in galvanizing transgender community activism in the 1990s.

Brandon Teena was born Teena Renae Brandon in December 1972 in Lincoln, Nebraska. His father died in a car accident before Brandon was born, and Brandon and his sister were raised by their young mother. Always a tomboy, Brandon began cross-dressing at an early age. By the time he was expelled from his Catholic high school shortly before graduation, he was using male names and dating local girls.

Brandon was a charismatic lover who showered his girlfriends with gifts, financing his generosity with odd jobs, theft, and scams such as check forgery. His relationships typically ended when someone revealed to his girlfriends that he was female. He usually then told them he had been born a hermaphrodite or that he had undergone or was planning "sex" reassignment

surgery. Brandon consistently denied he was a lesbian. "[I]t's not okay for me to love women as a woman," he told a former classmate. "I have to be a man if I'm going to love women."

In the summer of 1993, with a recently broken engagement, a criminal record, and the constant risk of exposure by past acquaintances, Brandon decided to get a fresh start. In November, he moved to rural southern Nebraska. He started dating a woman from Falls City, Lana Tisdel, and soon moved in with her and her mother and began hanging out with her friends, including two ex-cons, John Lotter and Tom Nissen.

In December, Brandon was arrested for check forgery, and the *Falls City Journal* listed him as female in a crime report. Although Tisdel stuck by him, others were outraged by the gender deception. On Christmas Eve, Lotter and Nissen forced Brandon into a car and drove to the outskirts of town, where they beat and raped him. When Brandon reported the assault, he was subject to a humiliating interrogation by Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux, who not only failed to arrest Lotter and Nissen, but warned them that Brandon planned to press charges.

Lotter and Nissen searched for Brandon for several days, finally locating him at his friend Lisa



Brandon Teena with Lana Tisdel

Lambert's farmhouse in Humboldt. In the early morning hours of December 31, Brandon, Lambert, and a visitor named Phillip Devine were each shot twice at close range. Only Lambert's 8-month-old baby was spared.

Lotter and Nissen were arrested and charged with murder, kidnapping, and sexual assault. Nissen eventually agreed to a plea bargain and testified against Lotter. Nissen was sentenced to life in prison, and Lotter received the death penalty. After two unsuccessful appeals, he remains on death row.

Even in death, Brandon's gender identity remained a source of controversy. While some accounts referred to Brandon as female and blamed his deception for his murder, the transgender community adopted him as one of their own. But, says Susan Muska, who co-produced the documentary *The Brandon Teena Story*, "I think he'd be mortified at being held up as an icon for the transgendered or transsexual community. He wanted to be a straight guy, to live his life, and that was it." ▼

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Past Out

## AIDS czar

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tion."

Created by Mayor Willie Brown in January 1998, the late Dick Pabich took on the position as a volunteer. But Pabich stepped down after less than a year due to health concerns, and the office has shown very little in terms of clear accomplishments since. Its list of purposes remains more of a to-do list.

"[Pabich] brought so much experience and a unique perspective. Yet he served a short time before he got sick and that position has never been the same since. It raises the question: does a new mayor need this?" said Illig, who added that comments he has received

from the community are split on whether to abolish the office. "Here is a position that has been vacant for a while. Do we need it or is there another way to achieve the same results? Or is there someone in the community who can volunteer for it?"

Illig stressed that his committee has been told it is not to offer any personnel advice to Newsom and therefore he would not comment on potential candidates for the job. However, people mentioned include Jeff Sheehy, a longtime Democratic Party and AIDS activist; Tom Calvanese, former Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center interim executive director; Don Howard, a longtime AIDS activist with ACT UP/Golden Gate and an adviser to Magnet, the gay men's health

center; and AIDS activist Michael Lauro.

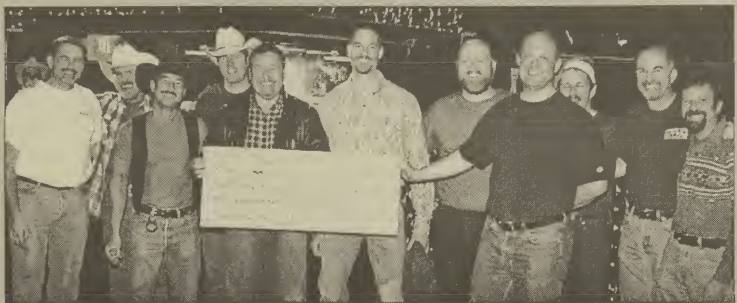
Sheehy, a member of the transition team, declined to comment and Calvanese and Howard could not be reached. Lauro declined to comment about taking on the position. But he did say an AIDS czar does play a role if the person has access to City Hall.

"Certainly, access to decision makers trumps no access and this position facilitates that. Qualifications aside, the real issue is whether the office will have the full support of DPH to accomplish anything meaningful," Lauro said.

Whomever is tapped, Lauro said the person should be someone living with AIDS, have activist or grassroots experience, and be

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## Hoe-down helps many



**T**he Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing, a San Francisco dance advocacy group, donated \$9,309 to the AIDS and Breast Cancer Emergency Funds during a ceremony at the Sundance Saloon December 14. The money represents the proceeds from the association's annual Sundance Stompede, a three-day festival promoting country-western dance, that took place in the city in November. Since 1997, the Sundance Stompede events have raised more than \$35,000 for AEF and BCEF. For more information on the dance organization, visit [www.sundancesaloon.org](http://www.sundancesaloon.org).

Courtesy Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing

# Is Howard Dean the inevitable nominee?

by Wayne Friday

Although supporters of Senator **John Kerry** (D-Massachusetts) and Representative **Richard Gephardt** (D-Missouri) in particular refuse to consider it, former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean** is quickly creating an aura of inevitability in his effort to win the Democratic presidential nomination even before the first votes are cast next month. Dean has risen from an asterisk to the front runner in the crowded field with his record fundraising, favorable poll numbers (he's leading in both the Iowa caucuses and the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary), and his highly-publicized endorsement earlier this month by former Vice President **Al Gore**.

Other than perhaps Kerry, whose campaign, after stumbling for months, is reportedly starting to hit its stride in Iowa where Democrats vote in three weeks, the other Democratic candidates appear to be growing increasingly reluctant to publicly take Dean on, and, in fact, some establishment Democrats are even noticeably warming to the outsider, anti-Washington campaign to remake the Democratic Party.

Indeed, one Democratic Party strategist, former Clinton press secretary **Joe Lockhart**, who had voiced concerns about Dean's electability in the past, now says Dean "is the establishment candidate" as polls continue to show the former governor stronger by the week in both Iowa and New Hampshire.

In addition, word from the White House has it that some advisers to President Bush, who once openly relished a race against Dean, now are becoming increasingly more wary of him, worried that his unconventional and intense appeal pose a threat they had once underestimated. While many national Democrats still worry that Dean is running his campaign too far to the left to be viable against **George W. Bush** in next fall's general election, the recent endorsement of Dean by Gore, the 2000 Democratic nominee, may have cemented the nomination for him — particularly, if, as expected, he does well in January in both Iowa and New Hampshire.

There is said to be growing concern among Bush insiders that Dean's amazing progress from being that of an unknown also-ran to front runner means that he could spawn unpredictable re-election hazards for Bush. Although one highly-placed Bush campaign official told the *Washington Post* last week that a Dean nomination is still viewed in the White House as "a gift from God," a more cautious view is gaining ground among Republicans. Among the factors that most worry them, one Bush operative said, is Dean's ability to attract young voters and others who have not voted before.

Some of the other Bush loyalists said they are given pause by Dean's similarities to Bush: a polarizing figure who has a temper and a deep appeal to his core sup-



Howard Dean

porters. Only last July, **Karl Rove**, Bush's chief political strategist, startled reporters when he joined the final line of a chant at a Fourth of July parade in Washington, shouting "We Want Dean!" Rove apparently feels Dean would bring the Republicans a rematch of the 1972 election when Democrat

**George McGovern** lost 49 states to President **Richard Nixon**.

Though Dean currently appears to be headed toward the Democratic nomination, barring a last-minute surge from either Kerry or Gephardt, he (Dean) appears to be a substantial underdog in a hypothetical matchup against President Bush. A national ABC News/*Washington Post* poll released last week found Dean lagging behind the president in a head-to-head matchup by 37 percent to 55 percent. The poll of 1,001 adults was taken December 18-21 and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

## Politics and people

*Newsweek* magazine's take on the upcoming presidential election: "The Republicans in the White House want Howard Dean to win the nomination. The Democrats in Washington want Dick Gephardt or John Kerry or even **Wesley Clark** to win the nomination. And the media? The media is hoping and praying **Hillary [Rodham Clinton]** ends up with the nomination. Why? Because she's a great story; always has been, always will be."

Then there's **Ralph Nader**. His backers admit he is again raising money to explore yet another run at the White House next year. But Nader says that if he runs, it will be as an independent — he's through with the Greens. Meanwhile, the Green Party, which garnered nearly 3 percent of the national vote in 2000, will hold its nominating convention in July in Milwaukee, and yes, California's **Peter Camejo** is already an announced candidate (anyone beating a path to **Matt Gonzalez's** door yet?)

Incidentally, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* is still trying to convince one and all that **Matt Gonzalez** indeed had a "victory" and in fact "didn't really lose" the December 9 runoff mayoral election. Really? The final Department of Elections tally read like this: **Gavin Newsom**: 133,546 votes (52.81

percent); **Matt Gonzalez**: 105,617 (43.51 percent). I'm sure that if the numbers were reversed, *Bay Guardian* editor **Tim Redmond** would be calling Gonzalez a huge winner.

Meanwhile, District Attorney-elect **Kamala Harris's** final vote numbers over incumbent **Terence Hallinan** stand at 137,111 votes (56.46 percent) to 105,617 (43.51 percent), and, yes, she kicked his rear-end.

Redistricting has made California's 53 House seats so safe for the parties that now hold them that only one seat — the 3rd Congressional District in the Sacramento area where GOP Representative **Doug Ose** is retiring — will be potentially competitive next year. Democrat **Gabe Castillo** is given an outside chance of picking up that GOP seat for the Democrats next November.

And the only Bay Area legislative battle that is of interest next March is in state Senate District 11, which covers parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties, where two Democrats, former Assemblyman **Ted Lempert** and current Assemblyman **Joe Simitian**, will fight it out to replace termed-out state Senator **Byron Sher** (it's a safe Democratic district).

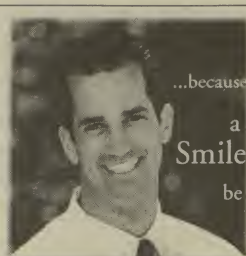
In Durham, New Hampshire, some residents have asked the town not to use the Evangelical Church as a polling place for next month's presidential primary. The reason? They said it held a worship service opposed to the consecration of Episcopal Bishop **Gene Robinson**, who is gay. Officials say there are few other options since the polling place must be able to accommodate more than 200 voters.

In Sioux City, Iowa, Judge **Jeffrey Neary** said he was merely trying to solve a legal problem when he signed a divorce decree recently for two women. Judge Neary granted a request to dissolve a civil union that the two Sioux City women obtained in Vermont last year. Some religious conservative groups in Iowa have asked the Iowa Supreme Court to overturn the divorce; gay marriage is outlawed in Iowa.

"Queer guy on the printed page": **Carson Kressley**, the fashion sage on the hit Bravo TV show *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, will write a book on men's fashion, to be published by Dutton next year. The book, not yet titled, will feature Kressley's "inimitable trademark wit and fashion wisdom," and "will cover the simple sartorial staples of style — from ascots to zippers," Dutton said in a statement this week. "From the 10 shoes every man should own to the final word on whether it is boxers or briefs, Carson explains in four-color detail exactly how a man can make the most of his look," the publisher said. And aren't you happy we decided to share that with our readers?

By the time the *Bay Area Reporter* hits the street next Thursday, January 8, San Francisco will have welcomed a new mayor and a new district attorney. Good luck, Godspeed, and all the best to Mayor-elect **Gavin Newsom** and District Attorney-elect **Kamala Harris**; two fine young people with big jobs ahead of them.

Finally, Happy New Year to all. ▼



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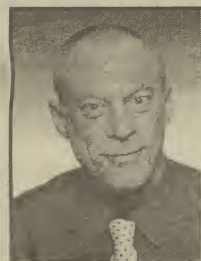
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**2003**

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the city should allow bathhouses  
to reopen.

Persuaded by evidence that she may have acted in self-defense, the San Francisco District Attorney's office threw out homicide charges against **Santianna "Cindy" Flaggler**, a transgender woman who allegedly stabbed her boyfriend, **Michael Neal**.

Three men were arrested in Monterey County in connection with the murder of **Robert Alan Maricle**, a bisexual man. Maricle's body was discovered April 8; he had been missing for four months.

**May**

Longtime Bay Area gay bar owner **George Bankovich** died April 11 of a heart attack at his home in South Lake Tahoe. He was 66.

District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Duffy** held a forum on speed use in the gay community. Duffy pushed for the forum because he believes crystal meth is decimating the community.

**Larry Hanbrook**, a gay health worker, was fired April 3 from his job in the Department of Public Health's sexually transmitted disease unit after he allegedly threatened to kill his supervisor. In May, before Judge **James McBride**, Hanbrook did not deny the allegation but said it was not a threat, rather a "figure of speech." McBride issued a permanent restraining order barring Hanbrook from making contact with his for-



Rick Gerhardt

Pink Triangle Park was dedicated at a ceremony in June.

mer supervisor. Hanbrook blamed his outburst on a hostile work environment.

**Vicki Marlena, Marina Gatto, Terry Person-Harris, and Hank Wilson** were named community grand marshals of the Pride Parade.

State regulators investigated two South of Market gay bars for allegedly allowing sex to occur on site. My Place and the Powerhouse both were visited by the state Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control.

The name of San Francisco Police Officer **Jon C. Cook**, was added to the "Wall of Honor" May 12 as the department joined in paying tribute to one of its own. Cook, 38, died June 12, 2002 from injuries he sustained in a collision involving two marked police cars. He was the first openly gay cop killed in the line of duty.

**Gilbert Baker's** rainbow flag celebrated its 25 anniversary. Former B.A.R. reporter **Keith Clark** died May 9 at his home in San Francisco. He was 61.

Art activist **Adrienne Fuzee** died May 18 at an Oakland hospital from heart failure related to her diabetes. She was 53. Ms. Fuzee was a founder of Lesbians in the Visual Arts and the Queer Cultural Center.

**June**

On June 23 Pink Triangle Park was dedicated. The memorial, on a small patch of land at the intersection of Market and 17th streets, commemorates gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people who were persecuted by the Nazis. The Eureka Valley Promotion Association and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Beautification teamed up to make the memorial a reality.

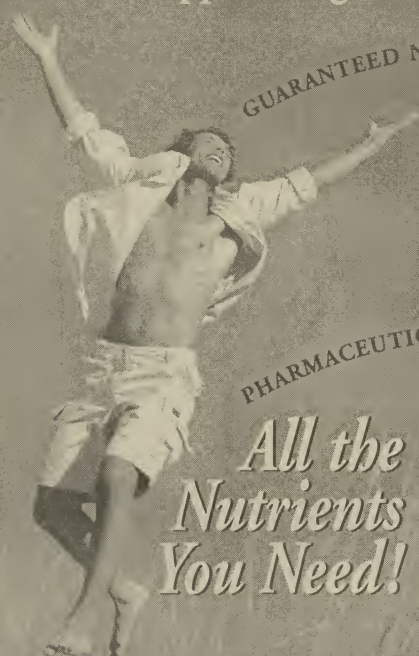
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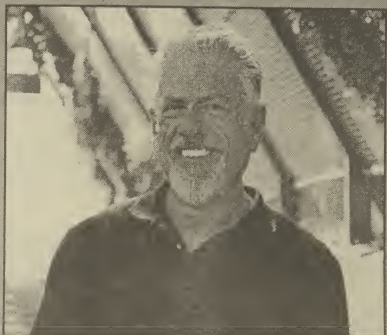
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# JANUARY 2004

## Positive Force Events



**POSITIVE FORCE** is by and for all HIV+ gay and bisexual men.



**6 POSITIVE SPACE CASTRO - THE MIX** Tuesday, Jan 6, 6:30pm  
 @ The Mix, 4086 18th St @ Castro St Meet us at The Mix!: New digs for Positive Space in the Castro. We listened to your concerns for privacy, so we have our own patio to hang out on!

**7 POSITIVE FORCE BOOK CLUB** Wednesday, Jan 7, 6:00pm @  
 P-Force Offices, 539 Castro St @ 18th St Join the guys of Positive Force as we add this new addition to the 2004 calendar. We'll be choosing a book to read and then meeting bi-monthly to discuss. Stay up on the latest while socializing with good friends.

**8 POSITIVE FORCE FOCUS GROUP** Thursday, Jan 8, 5:30pm @  
 P-Force Offices, 539 Castro St @ 18th St Join us to talk about ideas for HIV+ prevention in the new year. Help us continue to explore the role we as HIV+ men play in prevention.

**15 CAFÉ POSITIVE** Thursday, Jan 15, 1pm @ Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St @ Hartford St Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Café Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to everyone and hosted by the volunteers of the Castro Country Club. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment news-flash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us!

**21 POSITIVE SPACE @ H-CAFÉ** Wednesday, Jan 21, 6:30pm  
 @ H Café, Sanchez St @ 17th St Feeling the mid-week blues? Need a way to help finish off the month on an up note? Well, H-Café is the place to be. The guys of Positive Force are out en masse at this great event.

**22 PS SOMA EAGLE TAVERN** Thursday, Jan 22, 7pm @ Eagle Tavern, Harrison St @ 12th St The Is SOMA your neighborhood? Think the Castro is just a little too chi-chi? This is Positive Space with a leather twist. Come see and be seen.

**28 POSITIVE FORCE BOOK CLUB** Wednesday, Jan 28, 6:00pm  
 @ P-Force Offices, 539 Castro St @ 18th St Join the guys of Positive Force as we begin their Book Club. Stay up on the latest reading while connecting with other HIV+ gay and BI men.



### WANNA VOLUNTEER?

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**Tom Coates**, a top AIDS researcher at the University of California, San Francisco and director of the university's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, announced his resignation. He left in September to relocate to Los Angeles and join the faculty at the UCLA Medical School. Coates said his decision was prompted by his partner, **Robert DuWors**, being offered the position of deputy director of the Comprehensive Care Unit at UCLA.

The often antigay radio talk show host **Michael Savage** was knocked off the air in the Bay Area during an apparent contract dispute with KSFO. For a brief time, the Bay Area was Savageless for the first time in eight years. Savage later joined another radio station.

Singer and longtime AIDS fundraiser **Jo-Carol Davidson** died June 4 of a cerebral aneurysm. She was 47. She had just left her hairdresser and was en route to a performance when she collapsed on the street. Her numerous performances at benefits for AIDS charities endeared her to many in the city's gay community.

It was revealed that **Mike Shriver**, Mayor **Willie Brown's** AIDS czar, has been out on disability leave for more than a year and a half. Battling both HIV and hepatitis C, Shriver went on leave in September 2001. Since then, the Mayor's Office on AIDS has been dormant and AIDS agencies have been without a key voice within Brown's administration.

Gay and AIDS agencies scrambled when it was reported that **PipeVine Inc.**, a vendor of United Way of the Bay Area, ceased operations. Many LGBT groups receive funds through UWBA and PipeVine, a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provided pledge processing, funds distribution, and other services. UWBA Chief Executive Officer **Anne Wilson** stated that the agency would honor UWBA contributions by drawing from its reserve fund.

It was announced that Project Open Hand executive **Thom Lynch** would succeed **Brian Cheu** as executive director of the LGBT Community Center. Lynch impressed the center's board with his managerial experience.

**Chrissy Gephardt**, the out lesbian daughter of Democratic presidential candidate Representative **Richard Gephardt** (Missouri) toured Project Open Hand and stumped for her dad in mid-June. Ms. Gephardt, a former social worker, said her family was accepting when she came out a couple of years ago. She said that she and her father disagree on gay marriage; she supports it, candidate Gephardt is opposed.

The Stop AIDS Project launched a new "Department of Homeland Security" condom initiative to ensure that men who have sex with men in San Francisco are equipped to protect themselves. After handing out 6 million condoms since 1997, SAP decided it was time to spruce up its condom distribution efforts.

The city held its 33rd annual LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration June 28-29, drawing hundreds of thousands of people from the Bay Area and beyond. Many people celebrated the U.S. Supreme Court's decision striking down sodomy laws.

**July**

Charges were dropped against Gay Shamers **Lily Pastora**, **Matthew Lutton**, **Jesse Sanford**, **Jonathan Baker**, **Harry Mansor**, and a sixth unnamed person in connection with protesting in front of mayoral candidate Supervisor **Gavin Newsom's** contingent in the Pride Parade.

Magnet, a new health center for gay men, opened its doors in the Castro. The center, located at 4122 18th Street, is funded through a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb and the city.

MSNBC fired talk show host

**Michael Savage** after he told a crank caller to his television show that he should "get AIDS and die."

LGBT groups geared up to fight the recall of **Governor Gray Davis**.

**Beth Teper** was named executive director of Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere.

Former B.A.R. news editor **Mike Salinas** died July 15 in his New York City home, apparently of a heart attack possibly brought on by a drug overdose. He was 46.

Money from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's 17th annual AIDS Walk dropped \$400,000 from the 2002 event, officials said. Approximately 20,000 people participated in the July 20 event, down from 25,000 participants in 2002. Benefiting agencies received less money. The total take from the walk was \$3.1 million. Of the \$720,000 earmarked for organizations other than SFAF, \$350,000 goes to needle exchange, leaving \$370,000 spread out among some 30 other agencies.

The Explore HIV counseling study ended. Researchers in six cities spent the last four years collecting data on close to 4,300 men who have sex with men to see if intensive counseling could keep them HIV-negative. Study results are expected in about a year.

**August**

AIDS activist **Michael Petrelis** and ACT UP/SF dissident **David Pasquarelli** each pleaded no contest July 30 to misdemeanor charges and accepted three years probation and extensive stay-away orders in connection with a series of harassing and threatening phone calls the pair allegedly made to city public health officials, HIV researchers, and members of the media, nearly two years ago.

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals rejected the final legal appeal challenging San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance.

The California Supreme Court ruled August 4 that second-parent adoptions – used by gay and lesbian couples – are valid. Justice **Janice Rogers Brown**, who President Bush nominated to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, was the only dissenting judge in the 6-1 decision.

Two veteran lesbian San Francisco Police inspectors – **Lea Militello** and **Pat Correa** – were

next page ▶

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JANUARY 12

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# OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Rick Kirkham



Rick Kirkham passed away on the morning of December 27th, 2003. He was born on July 25th, 1961, in Methuen, Massachusetts. Rick enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1980 and served honorably at Andrews AFB, Maryland, and Patrick AFB, Florida. Rick rose to the rank of staff sergeant. He left the military in the mid-1980s, earned an associate's degree in computer science from the University of Central Florida, and moved to Orlando, Florida to work for AT&T and later Lucent Technology.

In 1998, Rick moved to San Francisco, where he was active in numerous organizations including the Gay Men's Chorus. Despite an HIV diagnosis in 1989, he ran dozens of marathons and stayed physically active until a lymphoma diagnosis in the summer of 2003. He was employed by RSA Security. Rick was surrounded at his death by those who loved him most: his Mother Ann Lundy and sister Pam Murphy of Salem, New Hampshire, and beloved friends Dan, John, Josh and Marty. Rick also leaves a brother-in-law Paul and nephew Patrick.

Memorial services were held on Tuesday afternoon December 30th at the M.C.C. Church on Eureka St. Those wishing to honor Rick's memory are invited to make a donation in Rick's name to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

## 2003

◀ previous page

stabbed August 11 outside a home in Daly City as they investigated a cab driver suspected of shooting a pellet gun at a family in San Francisco. Both women were rushed to the hospital and later recovered from their injuries.

United Parcel Service was the subject of an antigay bias suit when **Daniel Kline** filed suit in August charging that the company refused to transfer a gay employee who sought to be closer to his domestic partner.

## September

The 7th annual East Bay Pride celebration was held in downtown Oakland.

A spate of lawsuits alleging several Castro businesses are inaccessible to the disabled were filed in federal court by a West Sacramento man who has served hundreds of similar suits throughout the state over the years, targeting everything from Northern California wineries to banks to department stores.

**Stephen Funk**, the gay Marine who went AWOL because he opposed the war, was sentenced to six months in jail after a military jury in New Orleans found him guilty of unauthorized absence.

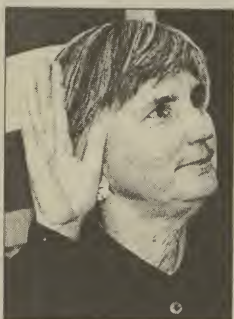
**Robert Noel**, convicted in connection with the fatal dog mauling of lesbian **Diane Whipple**, was paroled to Fairfield, in Solano County.

Former San Francisco Health Commissioner **Ronald Gene Hill** was arrested September 16 and charged with a seldom-used state law that he intentionally infected his ex-lover with HIV. He pleaded not guilty.

Mayor **Willie Brown** dumped longtime AIDS activist **Mark Dunlop** from the HIV Health Services Planning Council. Dunlop charged that Brown made the move for political and personal reasons. Brown's spokesman, **P.J. Johnston**, did not refute the accusation.

A memorial was held in September for MCC of the Redwood Empire layperson **Keith Apple**. Mr. Apple died August 20 of complications from AIDS and liver cancer brought on from the disease. He was 60.

One of the most important early pioneers in gay rights, **Donald S. Lucas**, died in his home in San Francisco on September 22, after suffering complications from Parkinson's disease and heart and lung problems. He was 77. Mr. Lucas was a leader of the national homophile movement in the 1950s and co-founder of one of the earliest gay presses.



Liz Hendrickson being sworn in.

## October

Out lesbian **Liz Hendrickson** was sworn in as an Alameda County Superior Court commissioner on October 1.

Republican **Arnold Schwarzenegger** was elected California governor as voters recalled Democrat **Gray Davis**.

Antigay state Senator **William "Pete" Knight** (R-Palmdale) and Assemblyman **Ray Haynes** (R-Riverside) got the okay to collect signatures to repeal AB205.

Controversial lesbian radio talk show host **Tammy Bruce** was named to Governor-elect Schwarzenegger's transition team.

**Jacqueline Toves**, 26, and **Abigail Tapia**, 27, a Southern California lesbian couple, were found dead in an exclusive seaside resort near Big Sur after an apparent suicide pact.

Board of Equalization Chairwoman and out lesbian **Carole Migden** announced she was running for the state Senate seat being vacated by **John Burton** (D-San Francisco).

Following a preliminary hearing in San Francisco Superior Court, **James McKinnon**, 38, was ordered to stand trial in the grisly murder of gay resident **Gary Lee Ober**, 56 that took place in 2002.

Castro's revamped alcohol-free Halloween street party was a success with a few reported problems, but nothing like last year's mayhem. District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**, police, merchants, and entertainers worked all year to ensure that the event was safer. The work paid off.

## November

San Francisco's mayoral race ended up with the top two candidates, Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** and Board of Supervisors President **Matt Gonzalez**, facing a December runoff. The two major gay candidates - **Tom Ammiano** and **Susan Leal** - finished out of the running.

Voters in the East Bay city of Hayward elected out gay candidates

**Grant Peterson** and **Sarah Gonzales** to the school board. Out lesbian **Ruth Atkin** was re-elected to the Emeryville City Council. Openly gay Vallejo City Council member **Gary Cloutier** was re-elected.

State regulators raided My Place bar in the South of Market District and cited six patrons for lewd conduct. The bar remains open and the bar's liquor license is under review.

Under One Roof CEO **Paul Olsen** announced his resignation after many years with the nonprofit that benefits numerous AIDS service organizations.

The community came together to mark the 25th anniversary of the assassinations of Supervisor **Harvey Milk** and Mayor **George Moscone**. Events took place throughout November, culminating with the Milk-Moscone Memorial March November 23.

## December

For the first time since 2001, gay and bisexual men are engaging in less risky sexual behavior and are helping to bring the city's HIV epidemic under control, San Francisco health officials reported on December 2.

**Perry Lang** was hired as the executive director of the Black Coalition on AIDS.

It was a close race, but in the end, Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** was elected mayor, edging out **Matt Gonzalez** by about five percentage points. In the race for district attorney, **Kamala Harris** upset two-term incumbent **Terence Hallinan**.

Conservative lawmakers dropped their referendum effort to repeal AB205, the sweeping domestic partnership bill.

Charges of intentionally infecting former sex partners with HIV were dismissed against former SF Health Commissioner **Ronald Gene Hill**.

Out lesbian **Cathy Maupin** was hired as the interim executive director of Openhouse, the agency working to construct an LGBT senior housing facility.

Pioneering transgender activist **Roberta "Bobbie" Dunn** died November 16 at a hospital in Reno of complications brought about by leukemia. She was 58.

**Susan Stryker** resigned as executive director of the GLBT Historical Society.

Bay Area Reporter publisher **Bob Ross** died December 10 of complications from diabetes. He was 69. Mr. Ross was a pioneer in gay journalism; he started the B.A.R. in April 1971 and saw it evolve into one of the leading LGBT newspapers. ▼

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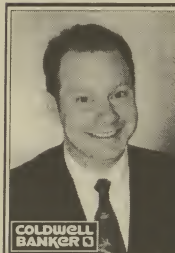
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# Run way

by Jim Provenzano

Your New Year's resolutions hopefully include some goals toward getting healthier and more accomplished in your life. Perhaps you'll renew a gym membership, take up that sport that's always interested you,

or simply go for a jog through the park.

Why not take that first step with a group that's one of the first GLBT sports groups. Members of FrontRunners have been having runs for 30 years, and will be celebrating the organization's big 3-0 this Saturday, January 3.

The official SFFR 30th anniversary run starts at 9 a.m. at Golden Gate Park's Stow Lake Boathouse. Following a one-to-three mile non-competitive run, enjoy a bagel brunch and some cake. Hey, not all carbs are bad.

Unusually enough, FrontRunners had its inspiration in fiction. Patricia Nell Warren's best-selling novel, *The Front Runner*, inspired athletes to counteract homophobia in sports, and organize to run together.

Started in January 1974, the 300-member San Francisco club is

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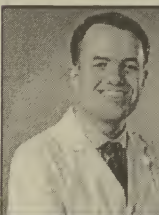
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Depression is a medical condition that may cause feelings of sadness, worthlessness and helplessness, as well as loss of interest or pleasure in activities which were formerly enjoyable. This disorder is often treatable, but unfortunately many of the medications that are used to treat depression can cause sexual dysfunction as well as other side effects. As part of the search for better medications, Dr. Robert Dolgoff and colleagues at Berkeley Therapy Institute are conducting a study of an investigational drug, a marketed product, and placebo in patients suffering from moderate to severe depression. You may qualify for this study if you meet the following criteria:

- 18 years of age or older
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- Currently having normal sexual functioning
- Not in psychotherapy

If you fit these and some other criteria, and you decide to enroll, you will receive study related physical and psychiatric examinations, laboratory tests, and study medication at no cost. During the 8 week study you will be seen in our office and you will receive \$35.00 for at least one and possibly as many 8 office visits. If you are interested in learning more about this study, contact us:

Robert Dolgoff MD (510) 841-8484 x104 dolgoff@earthlink.net  
Michael Leaver RN CNS (510) 841-8484 x141 miki7484@hotmail.com



The San Francisco FrontRunners gear up for 30th anniversary.

the founding chapter of a worldwide network of FrontRunners clubs for the LGBT community and their friends.

National publicity about the club's first race, Gay Run '80, as well as participation by runners in the first Gay Games, in 1982, led to the growth of FrontRunners clubs throughout the world.

In 1986, in Denver, Colorado, Michael Thomas was inspired by SFFR to start a FrontRunners club there. Today, he lives in San Francisco and just completed his term as SFFR's 2003 president.

"Friends, family, warmth, sharing, understanding, acceptance, athletic ability of varying degrees, and love are just a few of the qualities that are found in the San Francisco FrontRunners," said Thomas.

With more than 100 FrontRunners clubs, including 70 in the United States and 30 in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland, gay runners have grown to a global community.

Garrett Hayashida, the Bay Area group's club president, said that strong feelings of camaraderie among members has enabled SFFR to not only survive, but flourish.

The group began inauspiciously as an "introduction to jogging," in a course that was part of the now-defunct Lavender U free university. First called "Lavender U Joggers," the name was changed in 1979 to FrontRunners.

Each June, the club hosts a 5K and 10K Pride Run, which in 2003 raised \$8,700 for charity. Each September, SFFR hosts LGBT Sports Day on Angel Island.

Current activities include twice-weekly, noncompetitive runs, restaurant brunches after the Saturday runs, monthly bagel brunches in the park, and annual ski and camping trips.

SFFR weekly runs take place

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Ferry Building, and Saturdays at 9 a.m. at the Stow Lake Boathouse. Newcomers are always welcome.

Bud Budlong, of FrontRunners, wrote a history of the group posted on its Web site.

"There is a popular misconception that to participate in a FR club, you have to be fast," he wrote. "We frequently hear new people say, 'I'll have to get mileage/speed up before I can show up for a run.'"

"But this is not the case. Although some clubs are more competitive than others, and competition among club members has motivated some to achieve goals they never

thought possible, by far, it is the camaraderie that keeps FrontRunners going. Like the Gay Games, it is the spirit of inclusion and participation that is important."

For more info, visit [www.sffrontrunners.org](http://www.sffrontrunners.org).

### Yanked

A New York Yankees' clubhouse worker who accused the team and some players of gay bashing, physical abuse, and playing cruel practical jokes, had his lawsuit dismissed in court last week.

Paul Priore sued the Yankees and three players in state Supreme Court in the Bronx in 1998, each for \$50 million. The Court of Appeals declined to hear his appeal.

His suit named the Yankees and players Mariano Rivera, Jeff Nelson, and Bob Wickman as defendants. Wickman is now with the Cleveland Indians, while Nelson is a free agent.

An assistant equipment manager in 1996, who made \$30 a day as a clubhouse worker, Priore claimed that several players made antigay remarks and played cruel pranks on him because of his sexual orientation, and that he was fired in August 1997 because he was HIV-positive.

Priore's lawyer, Edward J. Pavia Jr., said the Yankees knew of the

harassment, contrary to the appellate division's finding. Pavia claimed that the Yankees organization violated New York City's human rights laws.

The appellate division had earlier ruled there was no evidence showing that team officials knew Priore had the AIDS virus. Even the team dentist that had treated Priore didn't know he was HIV-positive and Priore never complained to management about any harassment.

Priore was fired, a Yankees statement said, because they believed he stole players' worn T-shirts, baseballs, and broken bats that were to be thrown away.

### Jihad day's night

A Southern California recreation league Muslim football tournament is being criticized by a few former players for its use of war-related terms.

The Associated Press reports that such team names as Intifada, Soldiers of Allah, and Mujahideen have led to some players quitting, and others wondering what all the fuss is about. The tournament, planned for young Muslims and their friends, is scheduled for this Sunday, January 4.

"This was really just supposed to be about the youth playing football. Now it's become so political that a part of me thinks we shouldn't even play," Tarek Shawky, 29, one of the tournament's organizers, told AP.

"Sensitizing our youths is our role as adults," said Hussam Ayloush, the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Southern California.

But he also said he believed the players were not being malicious when they decided the names, calling it "a small intra-Muslim tournament whose members all knew what the terms stand for," Ayloush said.

Sabih Khan, 18, who attends community college, began organizing a football tournament. Despite being called "Muslim Football," it's not limited to Muslims.

After passing out flyers and setting up a Web site, Kahn got numerous hate e-mails. Local media and talk radio spread the controversy. The league posted an open letter, apologizing "if anyone took offense to what was intended to simply be a positive outlet for Muslim youth."

Critics say such names glorify terrorism. "The issue is these are words that are linked to real terrorists, real threats, real murders today," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Meanwhile, NFL teams glorifying endangered species and human races decimated by genocide continue toward the playoffs. ▼



Sabih Kahn, right, founder of a Muslim football league, just wants to play ball.

For more local sports info, visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

# Gay sex club owner wants everyone in 'jail'

by Eric Ganther

**Who:** Ken Neal  
**What:** Co-owner of Mack Folsom Prison  
**Where:** San Francisco  
**Contact:** mackfolsomprison.com

Folsom Prison. Folsom Street. Dirty, sweaty, prison sex. Dirty, sweaty, gay sex. Get the connection? You don't? Guards, seize this reader and strap him to the wall! It's time someone taught him to respect prison sex fantasies! And if he wants to keep getting it, he'll log out of his cyber-boredom and get over to Mack Folsom Prison, where "prison warden" Ken Neal does the difficult but necessary work of "rehabilitating" gay delinquents. To see the prison yourself, check out the New Year's Eve Party: Sex Riot. To see what it's like owning a sex club, get on your knees and read this column! This week I interview Ken Neal, gay man, sex club owner, and keeper of passion's flame.

How did you become a sex club owner?

Our three-year anniversary was December 14. Before that I was the longest employee at the old Mack sex club on 10th Street. I worked there for five years, one night a week. It was good because it got me into the gay world.

Is owning a sex club lucrative?

Well, co-owning a sex club with Daralt doesn't provide enough to live on. We share the profits and pay for seven to nine employees and the rent, which is expensive. Together, they eat up most of the profits.

So I have two other incomes: I host students for an English language school in my apartment in Twin Peaks. And I own Mission Creek Printing. We do all the advertising for Mack Theater Rhino is probably our best known client.

Why Folsom Prison?

The theme was my idea. My favorite porn film is Jeff Stryker's *Power Tool* and part of it is set in a prison. A friend from Oakland called me and told me about some free lockers from Folsom Prison! So we picked them up. And then we put bars up on the lockers and tried to make it look more like a jail. We're on Folsom. The lockers are from Folsom Prison. It was handed to us, so we went with it, and it works. In fact, one of our former employees had done time at Folsom so he could verify that the lockers actually came from the prison gym. Oh, if they could talk!

Why did you move from 10th Street?

I wasn't an owner at 10th street. The Folsom Street building is a warehouse and you can do more here. The old place on 10th Street was a house and people could unscrew the light bulbs and turn the TVs off. There were holes in the walls and the windows were broken. We can childproof a warehouse. But when we first opened up, a lot of the old customers came and complained because the new place wasn't grungy enough.



Mack Folsom Prison's Ken Neal

Falcon has used our space with Chi Chi LaRue. We also have a good relationship with Factory Video—they're planning a second movie with us. We're closed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, so it's a good opportunity for them and us. It helps us give people what they want. It's an exciting space.

What's the difference between a bathhouse and a sex club?

Bathhouses have lockable doors. And sex clubs have no privacy so people can monitor you and tell you to put on a condom. People are warned if they're not using condoms but they usually abide. I guess the city is doing us a favor keeping everything in the open. But there are bathhouses with private rooms in every major city in the United States, including San Jose and Berkeley.

Are you lobbying for bathhouses?

No. I think it would be great to own a bathhouse, but I don't think it will ever happen here. Someone tried to open one down in the Tenderloin a couple of years ago and the city did not allow it to open. [The city of San Francisco closed the bathhouses in the 1980s. Mitch Katz, who heads the Department of Public Health, has stated he will never allow bathhouses in San Francisco while he's department head.]

What's your relationship with the Department of Public Health?

DPH has its eye on the sex industry. But my club supports programs that prevent people, especially young people, from getting HIV and STDs. The DPH helps us run a clean place for gay men to have safe, fun sex. When, for example, the syphilis outbreak began a few years ago, they encouraged us to educate people more. We have them bring their van out and do testing. You can't set up a van outside the Internet.

What role do sex clubs play in the health of the community?

It's education. We have educational materials out and the city provides us with condoms and lube. I'm shocked if somebody isn't aware at this point, but we still keep the materials out in case somebody has a question. It's the constant reminder that helps. People are going to do what they're going to do. You can't have chaperones for the evening. So we do what we can. At Mack, you're never far from condoms and lube.

How have gay men's sex practices changed over the last few years?

I think people aren't as scared of AIDS as they used to be. The drugs are working enough that people are willing to take more risks, and that's probably not a good thing. HIV rates are on the rise.

Are there issues with drugs?

Occasionally. If we catch anybody with drugs, they're absolutely 86'ed. We have a no-drugs policy. We don't want anyone in here doing speed. But we have pamphlets out for that too. The city helps and Tweaker.org is a really cool Web site for people who need to get some education about drugs, especially speed.

How do you get along with the police?

On the first day we opened a homophobic man, who lives on Ringold Alley, came up and told me he was going to do everything in his power to close us down. It really messed me up because I'd just invested everything I own in this place. My lawyer told me to get the police and fire department here to inspect and counter the charge that "some poor faggot would burn up in there." The police and firemen were really cool. This is a great town to do anything gay. Once they were on my side, we moved ahead with the sex club.

Does your boyfriend work at the club, too?

He volunteers here. His name is Aaron and he's 22. We met 14 months ago. He was homeless for two weeks on arrival. He's a sweetie and things have really worked out. He came to work with me the day after we met, and he's been here ever since. Now he's our webmaster. He's also in charge of advertising and promotions. At first I was upset that he wanted to be around the club so much. But he's beautiful and it's a good opportunity for him. He's really learning the business.

What's hard about being a sex club owner?

Dealing with employees. It's hard to trust people. We've been lucky that there are a few good ones to take up the slack. Mitch, our current assistant manager, is really good. He's real efficient. But there's a lot of turnover, and you have to be very careful who you hire because people will take advantage of you. Over the last year we lost a lot of business because of employment issues. I learned a hard lesson if you want it done right you have to do it yourself if at all possible. But we're back in the black now and ready for a great year in 2004.

Do you have to be gay to own a gay sex club? Are all of your clients gay men?

Well, the owner of the Power Exchange is straight and he seems to be making it work. Mack is a place for gay and bisexual men only.

Thanks, Ken, for providing the community with a place to, uh, express ourselves. Happy New Year! ▼

Eric Ganther can be reached at: [eric@ericganther.com](mailto:eric@ericganther.com).

## AIDS czar

◀ page 8

knowledgeable about both the medical and social aspects of the epidemic.

"The candidate needs more than just good press skills to be credible. Most importantly, he must be willing to challenge the failed policies played out year after year in this city," said Lauro. "The most important thing for this position is it requires an independent candidate, a free-thinking person not connected to any narrow parochial nonprofit. It would be like vultures surrounding dead meat the way AIDS nonprofits would insulate this guy."

Unlike in the case with a new police chief, where Newsom has

said he will conduct a nationwide search, most observers said if a new AIDS czar is appointed, the person should come from San Francisco. Newsom has said he believes there are strong candidates for the job within the local AIDS community.

"We don't need someone from Atlanta or Washington or New York," said Lauro. "If we can't find a candidate in this city then we shouldn't fill it."

Newsom transition team chair, former City Attorney Louise Renne, has given the working groups a January 5 deadline to submit their reports. Anyone interested in sending in advice, or requests regarding personnel appointments, should send it directly to [transition@gavinnewsom.com](mailto:transition@gavinnewsom.com). ▼

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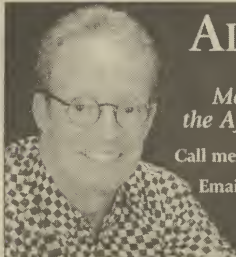
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541087**

In the Matter of the Application of Brian Lee Mavrogeorge for Change of Name. The application of Brian Lee Mavrogeorge for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Lee Mavrogeorge has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Lee Bonner. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541083**

In the Matter of the Application of Emilio Stefano Prieto for Change of Name. The application of Emilio Stefano Prieto for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Emilio Stefano Prieto has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Emilio Stefano Prieto Torres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541070**

In the Matter of the Application of Shora Miller for Change of Name. The application of Shora Miller for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Shora Miller has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Shomora Miller. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541081**

In the Matter of the Application of Douglas Taylor Rostein for Change of Name. The application of Douglas Taylor Rostein for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Douglas Taylor Rostein has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Douglas Taylor Kasle. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of January, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541025**

In the Matter of the Application of Shannon Minter for Change of Name and Change of Gender. The application of Shannon Minter for change of name and change of gender, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Shannon Minter has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Shannon Price Minter and his/her gender be changed from female to male. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of January, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0271814-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: J. Wavro Associates 1847 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Wavro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/02/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0271360-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunset Psychic 1417 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rose Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/08/93. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/12/03.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE 0271802-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Debra Damo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tsegal Berhe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/02/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/2003.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE 243248**

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Debra Damo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business was conducted by an individual, signed Tsegal Berhe. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541009**

In the Matter of the Application of David Allan Wentworth for Change of Name. The application of David Allan Wentworth for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that David Allan Wentworth has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Wentworth Schuh. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540939**

In the Matter of the Application of Xavier Lartigue for Change of Name. The application of Xavier Lartigue for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Xavier Lartigue has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Latif Kam Ra Eze. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541068**

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick William Hook for Change of Name. The application of Frederick William Hook for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick William Hook has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Andrea Ashley Chenie. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540960**

In the Matter of the Application of Sonya Sherrard for Change of Name. The application of Sonya Sherrard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sonya Sherrard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ducha Malika Jali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0271667-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Linda Jewelry, 121 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Demin Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/24/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/24/03.

DEC. 11, 18, 25 JAN 01, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272294-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nails by Wendy 5933 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tony Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/24/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/24/03.

JAN 01, 8, 15, 22, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CASE #540720**

In the Matter of the Application of Yisrael Ben Avraham For change of Gender. The application of Application of Yisrael Ben Avraham for change of gender from female to male, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yisrael Ben Avraham has filed an application proposing that his/her gender be changed from female to male. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 20th day of January, 2004, at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for gender change (female to male) should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE**

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is Martinez Benjamin The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 10 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Type of License applied for: 41-0N-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

DEC. 11, 18, 25, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF, CA 94102, AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE #CPF-03-503532**

HEATH STOVER, Petitioner, v. WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, a California limited liability company, and SEAN WALL, an individual, Respondents.

TO WHOM WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY and SEAN WALL: YOU ARE ORDERED to appear in Department 302 of this court, located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA on January 13th, 2004, at 9:30 am, then and there to show cause why the petition of HEATH STOVER for dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, and designation of HEATH STOVER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC should not be granted.

This order together with a copy of the petition on file herein and any declarations filed in support of the petition shall be served on SEAN WALL in the same manner as service of summons at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing, or as otherwise specified in an order allowing publication pursuant to CCP 415.50. You are notified that a petition has been filed by HEATH STOVER seeking dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD LLC and designation of HEATH STOVER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC. If said petition is granted, assets of the LLC will be sold and proceeds of sale applied in a manner according to law and as approved by the court. You must appear at the hearing on the date and at the time specified if you object to this petition. Dated November 4, 2003, Ronald Evans Quidachay, Judge of the Superior Court.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 8, 2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272200-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: All Fours 303 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lloyd Campbell Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/31/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/19/2003.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 8, 15, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272181-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: EKJAY, 460 Natoma #20 Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey P. Mainville. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/18/2003.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 8, 15, 2003

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541110**

In the Matter of the Application of Daniel Anthony Deleo for Change of Name. The application of Daniel Anthony Deleo for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Daniel Anthony Deleo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Danielle Annemarie Deleo. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 01, 08, 15, 22, 2003

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Meadows. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
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statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
12/08/2003.  
**JAN 01, 8, 15, 22, 2003**

**STATEMENT FILE A-0271739-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
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Line INC., 1006 Sutter Street San Francisco,  
Ca. 94109 This business is conducted  
by a corporation signed Kathie Wong.  
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**DEC. 11, 18, 25 JAN 01, 2003**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
FILE NO. CNC 03-541043  
In the Matter of the Application of Zhi Xi  
Liang for Change of Name. The application  
of Zhi Xi Liang for change of name, having  
been filed in Court, and it appearing from  
said application that Zhi Xi Liang has  
filed an application proposing that his/her  
name be changed to Vincent Leung. Now  
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,  
that all persons interested in said matter  
do appear before this Court in Department  
218 on the 24th day of February at  
9:00am of said day to show cause why the  
application for change of name should not  
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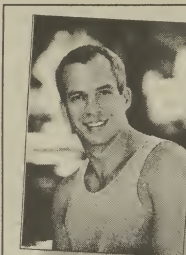
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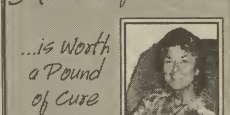
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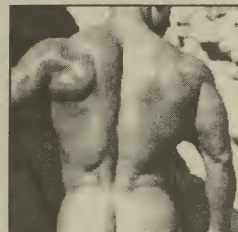
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Ca. 94133. This business is conducted  
by an individual signed Lori Dodge. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact business  
under the above listed fictitious business  
name or names on 12/22/2003. The  
statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
12/22/2003.

JAN 01,8,15,22,2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0272246-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Lugh Arts 581 Duboce Ave. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94117 This business is conducted  
by an individual, signed Donald F.  
Folkers. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
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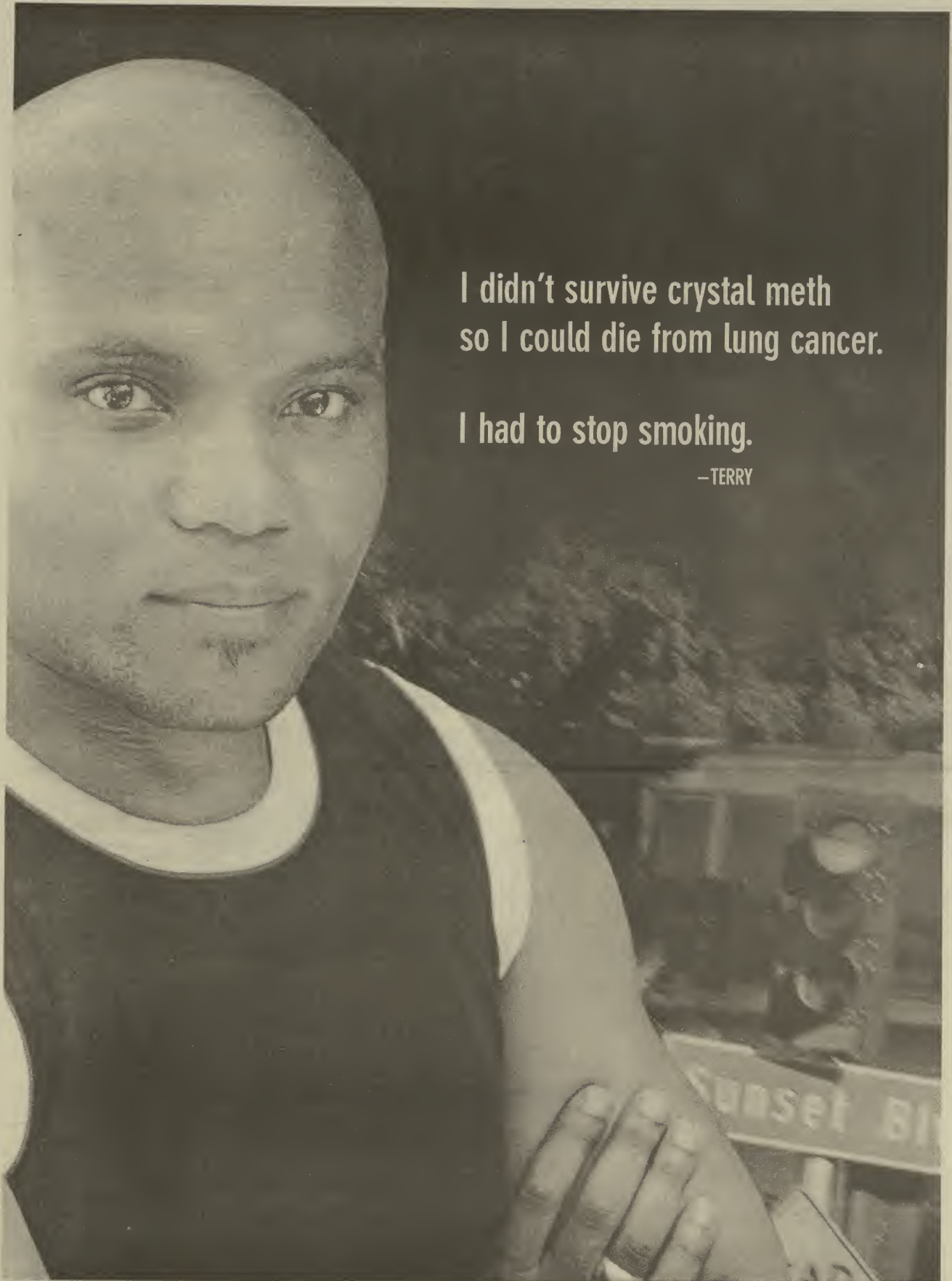
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Light opera with a fringe on top  
'The Merry Widow' with Yvonne Kenny,  
'Oklahoma!' with Hugh Jackman, on DVD.  
page 26

Sexsational art  
John Waters & Bruce  
Hainley's 'Art-A Sex Book.'  
page 29



'Monster' ball  
Charlize Theron  
morphs into killer.  
page 25



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 1 • 1 January 2004

## Strange dreams Strange de Jim's history of the Castro

by David Nahmod

Images of America: San Francisco's Castro by Strange de Jim; Arcadia Publishing, \$19.99

It's only fitting that the history of the country's most colorful gay neighborhood be documented by one of its more colorful residents. Strange de Jim has lived in San Francisco since 1972, and in the Castro since 1979. For years, he was a regular contributor to Herb Caen's legendary column in *The San Francisco Chronicle*, a function he now serves for Bruce Bellingham's *Examiner* column.

Strange, as he calls himself, is the wittiest, most over-the-top character this side of Quentin Crisp. But his new book, *Images of America: San Francisco's Castro*, is a very serious, vital and informative pictorial history of America's gay Mecca, from 1870 until the present.

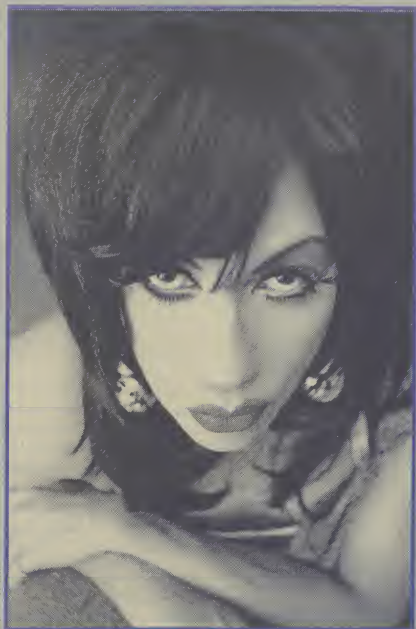
Arcadia Publishing has issued thousands of volumes in their *Images of America* series. Each volume focuses on a specific town or neighborhood, and documents its history through photographs. *San Francisco's Castro* is the first in the series to focus on the gay community, and it's a treasure chest. From photos of Castro and Market in the 1870s, with the highly recognizable Twin Peaks in the background, through the entire 20th century, the book shows how this once blue-collar neighborhood became what it is today. We get to see the evolution of the area's two oldest businesses, the Castro Theatre and Cliff's Variety, in both their present and former locations. We see the neighborhood change in the 1960s and '70s, the Harvey Milk Years, the AIDS crisis, and the present. It's a breathtaking achievement.

I recently met with Strange de Jim in his Castro apartment, and managed to transcribe the following interview, even though it was difficult to write because I was laughing so hard!

page 34 ►



Strange de Jim and best friend Tom Boyer pose outside Hot 'n Hunky in the Castro.



## A million-buck look

Diva of the year: Juanita MORE! by Mark Mardon

Michael Rodrigues, at home in a cozy Tendernob basement flat, seems a modest man, more than content with his life, immensely happy to be kicking around despite his Hodgkin's lymphoma lumps. He's pleasant, polite, soft-spoken and the farthest thing you'd imagine from his sensational alter-ego, San Francisco's most glamorous drag persona, Juanita MORE! Michael likes his low profile as a man, just as he thrives on his glittering public image as Juanita, the woman every drag queen aspires to be.

Michael's Juanita MORE! is the hostess with the mostess at countless benefits and fundraisers hereabouts, most notably for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC), serving the elderly, disabled, transgender, homeless, addicted and other populations in one of the city's most vibrant but troubled neighborhoods; and for the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), a vital resource for queer teens and young adults. When Juanita puts on a gala, watch out! She draws brilliant entertainers and

raises megabucks.

Flashback to the time 16-year-old Michael met Divine at San Francisco's Alcazar Theater. All by himself, growing up in the East Bay, he buys a ticket to come to the city to see Divine in a play. He waits backstage, by himself, to meet his hero. When Divine comes backstage and sees Michael, he turns to somebody in the cast and says, "What's this little kid doing here?" All Michael can think is, "You guys just take me with you. Just take me on the road. Like, I don't know why I'm here, but I'm supposed to go with you guys."

Flash-forward to San Francisco in the early '90s. Michael has moved here and found a cozy nest in the Tendernob. It's Halloween, and he really needs to don a proper costume. That's when fashion designer Mr. David shows up for a visit, and changes homebody Michael into an out-on-the-town kind of gal.

Michael begs Mr. David, "Put me in drag!" And Mr. David is like, "Oh my god, no, please don't make me do that to you!" And Michael is like, "Oh come on, it'll be fun!" Michael pesters him all week.

Mr. David, unable to refuse, buys Michael a pair of proper ladies' shoes. Of course Michael cannot walk down a hall-

page 28 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

# We make New Years resolutions for you!

With an easy guide for daily use in 2004

by Roberto Friedman

Out There has always found the old-fashioned custom of thinking up rigorous **New Year's resolutions** and then forcing them on oneself every January to be immensely charming and bettering, as long as they're meant for other people. As for applying it to ourselves, this annual compulsion to correct one's behavior is a touch, shall we say, Puritanical.

But we wanted to get into the spirit of the occasion this New Year's week, so we decided to force ourselves to sit down and come up with a list of resolutions—for other people. So we hereby resolve:

If I am a **benefit for AIDS**

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**STEPPING OUT?**

**Orphan's Place's**

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causes, in the new year I will make mention, somewhere in my press release, of just how much of the take in cold, hard cash is going to be donated. Call it *Queer Eye for the Straight Percentage*, but our motto is: Stay curious. When a production's billed as benefiting AIDS charity, we'd like to know just how much money actually goes to AIDS organizations, and who gets paid what. Maybe it's all legit, and maybe it's putting a lot of money into the pockets of promoters while little goes to help people with AIDS.

The latter is an old story; I resolve to prove it outdated by indicating the size of my contribution upfront.

If I am an **obnoxiously large SUV** parked on the street in a city neighborhood, I will beg my proud owner to please, please, before horsepowering me across town for a perm and pedicure and parking outside Out There's window, do a vasectomy on my car alarm so that I am screechless. Otherwise I may find nasty, runny egg dripping down my windshield, accidentally dropped from a second-story flat.

If I am a **sex education worker** who has the good fortune to regularly get suited up in the clever costume of a **Healthy Penis** for Gay Pride and other festive community celebrations, I will not let the gig go to my head and believe that I am therefore an actual celebrity. I understand that I am doing my part to reduce the transmission of venereal disease. But I will not see it as license to leak items to the local press about my fascinating life.

If I am a **San Francisco supervisor** still mightily steamed that some disinterested observers found the logo on my last campaign posters to look exactly like a television-head, I will try to relax and let it go. I will not protest, repeatedly, that the image is actually an ancient Aztec sym-

bol. I will accept the reality that it is an ancient Aztec symbol that happens to greatly resemble a television-head.

If I am a **macho Australian film star** producing my own controversial movie about the life of **Jesus**, I will try to convince my stupid bung-hole father not to give interviews denying the Holocaust ever happened and calling the Second Vatican Council a Masonic plot financed by Jews. Because that level of bigoted cluelessness tends to run in the fami-

ly, it does not bode well for my new version of the *Bible Comix*.

**Starlight room**

A *Supernova* is an exploding star that may suddenly get as bright as a billion times the brightness of the sun before just as quickly burning out. It's the apt title given by San Francisco Museum of Modern Art senior curator **Madeleine Grynsztejn** to the exhibition subtitled *Art of the 1990s from the Logan Collection of Bay Area collectors Vicki and Kent Logan*. Like the celestial supernova, the peace, prosperity and art market of the '90s (that sterling period between Election Days '92 and '00) flickered into the brightest sparkler of the century before flaring out.

SFMOMA is not necessarily much given to doing instant-replay retrospectives of contemporary art. But this exhibition is rooted in an usually strong and coherent collection. The Logans collect younger artists while they're still at that stage we call emerging. They seem to share a taste for the cutting edge with no fear of the beautiful. In a strong mix filled with plenty of by-now big-name talent (**Robert Gober**, **Damien Hirst**, **Chris Ofili**), some of the subtler works speak most eloquently: the brilliant, ephemeral moment that was **Felix Gonzalez-Torres'** (1957-

96); **John Currin's** particular portraiture; and **Rachel Whiteread's** casting of negative space.

Still, if there's a "signature artist" in this group show, clearly it is **Takashi Murakami**, whose seven-panel *Supernova* (1999) gives the show its title and whose anime-influenced pop art still looks new. A linked pair of his sculptures, *Hiropon* and *My Lonesome Cowboy*, present anime-style characters with extraordinary fluid-creating capabilities: *Hiropon*, the female, writes **Clara Kim** in the SFMOMA/D.A.P. catalog, "jumps a 'rope' of milk squeezed from her grossly squeezed breasts."



My Lonesome Cowboy, 1998

*My Lonesome Cowboy*, pictured here from the catalog from the collection, is not in the show. But worth noting, he is *Hiropon's* "spiky-haired male counterpart" and "holds an erect penis spouting a spectacular jet of semen." We'll say. Murakami's artwork makes a splash through May 23 at SFMOMA, 151 3rd St., SF. Info at [sfmoma.org](http://sfmoma.org).

**Model behavior**

From the glossy pages of the January issue of *GQ* (*Generally Queer?*) comes a profile of up-and-coming male model **Shaun De Wet** ("Pretty Boy") which assures us that soon we'll be seeing his handsome mug simply everywhere. In the course of its many-paged blowing of smoke, *GQ* attempts to dispel what it insists are misconceptions about male mod-



Shaun De Wet knows "everyone."

els, including the common wisdom that all male models are gay. Or most, anyway.

"In a business where the designers and stylists are predominantly gay—and where many assume that male models are, too—the majority of male models seem not to be gay at all," claims *GQ* [italics ours].

"I know everyone," says Shaun [italics ours], "and only two models that I know of are gay." Hmmm. Two, huh?



Does Shaun know Dominic Gabriel?

But hold on a minute, Shaun. In the Dec./Jan. *Interview*, here's a first look at fetching male model **Dominic Gabriel**, who walks the runways for **Louis Vuitton** and **Tommy Hilfiger**. He says, "Once I had to stand in my underwear in a showroom for Tommy Hilfiger, surrounded by drunk people at a party." How incredibly glamorous! Then, when asked who his favorite person is, Dominic sweetly replies, "My boyfriend of two-and-a-half years." So he must be one of the two existing gay male models in the world! Now we just have to find the other one for a complete set.

While we're on the subject of male models who aren't gay, that's supermodel **Marcus Schenkenberg's** basket saying hello! In some trunks on *Out* magazine's January cover. A legendary Internet photo that surfaced a while back was widely assumed to be a Photoshop morphing, but the evidence of Marcus in some very revealing bikini briefs in *Out's* fashion spread is that the Schenkenberg shank is for real. Congrats are in order for a not-gay male model who clearly has nothing to hide.

**Alumni notes**

Found in the alumni magazine for an Ivy League university that shall for purposes of decorum go unnamed: "After graduating in 1983, [Sammy Source] tended bar at the university's faculty club. "My regulars were certifiably insane," he said. "One of them committed suicide, and one was arrested for pederasty. They would line their lithium tablets up on the bar and just drink them with these double vodka martinis. One of them was this flamboyantly gay guy who would come in in velvet suits, and once he came in and said, 'Today I masturbated four species of animals at the lab,' in a loud voice to the whole room. That was a fun job, actually." Which was the fun job, working the fac club or jerking the species? ▼

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## HEARING

# Frenchie Davis opens up, eventually

*From distress in 'American Idol' to success in 'Dreamgirls' in San Jose*



Davis sang 'And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going!' on *American Idol*.

by Richard Dodds

midday martini hadn't loosened up Frenchie Davis. The star of an upcoming South Bay production of *Dreamgirls* knew that sooner or later the interview must acknowledge her controversial *American Idol* dismissal, and she probably thought, not unreasonably, that the interviewer's early questions were a way of backing into this unpleasant topic. Her answers, at first, were worrisomely (for an interviewer, at least) brusque.

How did she and the American Musical Theatre of San Jose come together for this production? "I heard they were doing it, and I went and auditioned."

David sang the toe-curling "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" from *Dreamgirls* on *American Idol*, and will be singing it again in San Jose before the production moves on to Sacramento and Seattle. Is it the kind of song where you just go out there and let it rip? "Yeah, basically."

Does her mother, who stills lives in Davis' native Los Angeles, ever get to see her perform? "Occasionally."

And, at last, how does she now look back on her *American Idol* experience? "It was a year ago, it's in the past, and that's all I'm going to say about it."

It turns out that's not all she had to say about it. But first, a little background. Early in 2003, Davis was seemingly the contestant to beat on *American Idol* when the producers discovered that she had once posed in lingerie, and perhaps less, for an adult website. They promptly ejected her from the top-rated TV talent show. She claimed it was to help pay college tuition at Howard University, and an online petition drive to reinstate her generated thousands of signatures, but the producers wouldn't budge.

They did, however, want to hold her to the contract that gave them their first dibs at representing her. "They tried to bind me to that, but that didn't happen," she said. "I was offered a contract, but I didn't feel it would be the best decision for me. I have to be able to look at myself in the mirror, and to have accepted their offer after the manner in which I was kicked off the show just didn't settle well with me." She has since signed a deal with Warner Bros. to record her first CD, and appeared for several months on Broadway in *Rent*.

Davis, 24, is a woman who knows her mind. Calling herself "a big old fag-hag," she said that she found her survivor's strength from drag-queen friends. "I used to perform at the drag nightclubs

in Washington to help me pay my way through school. That's when I really first started performing. I was the only girl not lip-syncing and the only real girl. That's why I was such a big hit."

Hanging out with the drag queens "reinforced my sassiness," she said. "It taught me about being confident, and for a lot of those guys it's not an easy life, and there's a lot of judgment that comes along with that. To be surrounded by people who are confident in who and what they are in spite of the adversity, it really made an impact on me."

Growing up wasn't always easy for Davis. Her family was poor, and she didn't fit in—city kids, molds. She listened to Nirvana, dyed her hair green, and didn't fret over her ample size. "It was quite OK for me not to be like everybody else, because I didn't want to be like everybody else," she said. "It was hard, but I'm sure that I'm doing a little bit better than the group of people I didn't fit in with in school. I can't wait to see those people at the high school reunion."

Right now, everything is about career for Davis. She doesn't want to be in a position where she has to choose between a job and a relationship. "I made that mistake before, when I was working in Germany," she said. "I fell in love with this gorgeous Italian man, and we had such good time, and we were both crying at the airport. I think I'm just now recovering from that. I don't want to do that again."

Her size is part of her mission. "I'd like to, with my career, contribute to changing some of this

*next page ►*

next page ►

## Bernstein's spiritual bent

*'Chichester Psalms,' more out on CD*

by Jason Victor Serinus

ew contemporary composers would transform a cathedral commission into an opportunity to create a pantheistic, subtly subversive statement of universal brother/sisterhood. But that is exactly what gay Leonard Bernstein (1918-90) did when, in response to a commission for the combined choirs of England's Winchester, Salisbury and Chichester cathedrals, he set his *Chichester Psalms* (1965) in Hebrew

hardly mutters that we're skipping down the streets of New York rather than immersing ourselves in the pious sanctity of cathedral worship; the music is that good-natured and appealing. "The Lord is my shepherd" is couched in gentle lyricism. After a brief interlude that sounds like a knife striking into the heart, the work blankets us with the same tenderness as felt in Lenny's classic "To Make our Garden Grow" and "One Hand, One Heart."

The concluding "Hineh mah tov, Umah naim /Behold how good, And how pleasant it is/For brethren to dwell/Together in unity," the words from Psalm 133, are sung at countless Jewish festivities. Here, clothed in new melody, the Psalm becomes a touching affirmation of the blessing of universal peace.



Bernstein recorded the work twice, first in 1965 with the New York Philharmonic, later with the Israel Philharmonic. The debut rendition just reissued in the three-disc Sony Classical Legacy box *Leonard Bernstein, A Total Embrace: The Composer*, offers an authentic alternative to Alop's performance. Bernstein and the New Yorkers' performance is brasher and more colorful, the percussion stronger. In the end, both performances speak truth, with Alop's bargain-price version especially distinguished by the wonderful boy soprano Thomas Kelly.

Also from Naxos' invaluable

*American Classics* series comes *Leonard Bernstein: A Jewish Legacy*. This issue from the New York-based Milken Archive of American Jewish Music includes many first recordings. Among the 14 compositions are Bernstein's first surviving complete work, a neo-Romantic setting

next page ►



rather than Latin. Not only that, but he entrusted their first performance not to the cathedral's traditional all-male choirs, but to a mixed, adult choir accompanied by the New York Philharmonic.

As a new Naxos recording of Chichester Psalms from Marin Alsop and the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus and Orchestra demonstrates, Bernstein created one of the most accessible and likable choral works of the 20th century. Tonal to the core — he called it “the most B-flat Majorish piece I’ve ever written” — its three sections are set to complete and excerpted Old Testament psalms. The performance is aptly book-marked by performances of music from Bernstein’s *On the Waterfront* and *On the Town*.

The Psalms' opening is classic Bernstein, its "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands" couched in the same jazzy, swinging idiom as *West Side Story*. It

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# Courting trouble with both genders

Questioning schoolgirl in Yee Chih-Yen's 'Blue Gate Crossing'

by David Lamble

"I'm courting you."  
"I'm trouble."  
"So am I."

The very slow-moving Taiwanese feature *Blue Gate Crossing*, opening Friday, is worth the time it takes to view for the way it works the sexual-identity crisis of a young schoolgirl. Having a

crush on her tomboy friend, she decides to do that friend's bidding by propositioning a hot male swimmer on the friend's behalf. The friend has acquired the swimmer's diary, his basketball, and even a water bottle as fetish trophies. The boy doesn't believe there is a friend, and the resulting foreplay around the school pool late at night, and on languorous bike rides through lush city

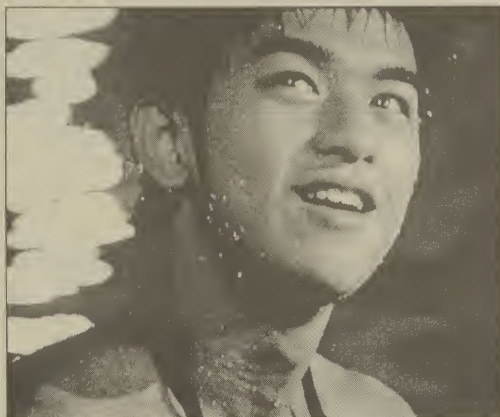
streets, provides insight into how we frame the objects of our desire.

Much of the charm of *Blue Gate Crossing*, from director Yee Chih-Yen (whose first film, *Lone-ly Hearts Club*, was a hit at the 1995 Frameline festival), lies in the subtle interactions between actors Chen Bo-Lin, who plays the swimmer Zhang Shih-Hao, and Guey Lun-Mei, who is the girl in transition, Meng Kerou. There's an offbeat chemistry between a training-wheels dyke and a spiky-haired Chinese boy with more pose and self-knowledge than you'd expect. Chen Bo-Lin plays Zhang as a supercool jock whose natural curiosity draws him to this strange girl.

In the end, much of the tension that surfaces between boy and girl revolves around a kiss. Guey needs to be kissed to dispel any doubts she has about her women-loving destiny, and Zhang goes along with the program.

"Do you want another kiss?"  
"Are you still a lesbian?"  
"Does this mean we're breaking up?"

*Blue Gate Crossing's* sly eroticism is supplemented by low-key



Hot swimmer Zhang Shih-Hao (Chen Bo-Lin) is the object of attention.

humor as Zhang and Guey size each other up. The talented young actors improvise their characters' feelings using folding chairs in an empty gym as props. You may wonder why the school's security guard never makes his rounds, but it gives Guey a goodly amount

of space to explain why she must kick the habit of kissing boys.

Fans of Tsai Ming-Liang's leisurely-paced Taiwanese comedies like *Vive L'Amour*, *The River* and *What Time Is It There?* may find *Blue Gate Crossing* a very agreeable way to greet the new year. ▼

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"Brilliant. The pacing and comic timing are flawless." — SF Spectrum

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## Frenchie Davis

◀ previous page

country's perceptions of beauty, and maybe open some doors for full-figured African-American women to be cast as something other than someone's mama. I don't think that they expected a full-figured black girl to advance as far as she did [on *American Idol*], and I think I contributed to a full-figured black man [Ruben Studdard] being the winner."

In *Dreamgirls*, Davis plays the

full-figured Effie White, the lead singer in a Supremes-type group who is forced to sing backup to make way for the svelte Deena Jones, who, their manager thinks, can take the group to crossover success. It's the part that propelled Jennifer Holliday to instant stardom on Broadway.

"This is different from playing Miss Bessie who cooks fried chicken and gives jolly advice," Davis said. "This has to do with love, sex, betrayal, and it's a lead role. It's one of the few leads written for a full-figured African-

American woman. It's unfortunate that we work in a business where it has to be written for me to get a part that's great. I can do a double chainé turn in four-inch pumps just like a skinny girl can. So you go, big girl, you gotta walk in there with your dancing shoes ready for anything." ▼

**Dreamgirls will run Jan. 9-25**  
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## Bernstein on CD

◀ previous page

of Psalm 148 for mezzo-soprano and piano written at age 17. The longest work, *Halil: Nocturne for Flute, Percussion and Piano* was written to honor Yadin Tannenbaum, a 20-year-old Israeli flutist who was killed in his tank in the Sinai during one of Israel's many wars. Several pieces are excerpts from such Bernstein creations as

*Arias and Barcarolles* and the ballet *Dybbuk*. Showing Bernstein at his most personal and familial are three wedding dances written for his friends and collaborators Adolph Green and Phyllis Newman.

The performances and recording quality are equally stellar. The soprano who sings both Psalm 148 and the 1951 song "Silhouette (Galilee)," written to honor the birthday of Bernstein's frequent collaborator, mezzo-soprano Jennie Tourel, is Angelina Réaux.

Réaux recorded *La Bohème* with Bernstein and recently created, directed and performed in a Chicago Opera Theater celebration of his life and work. Other performers of international renown include tenor Hans Peter Blochwitz, organist Christopher Bowers-Broadbent, and the BBC Singers. For a side of Bernstein that also surfaced in such works as the early *Jeremiah* symphony and Symphony No. 3 (*Kaddish*), this disc cannot be beat. ▼

## Heartfelt in Sin City



fter the emotionally and financially exhausting filming of his martial masterpiece, *Apocalypse Now*, Francis Ford Coppola turned to romantic comedy with *One from the Heart* (1982), which was supposed to be the kind of light, musical entertainment that would be boffo at the box-office. The love story starring Frederic Forrest and Terri Garr (with supporting parts from Raul Julia and Nastassia Kinski) is set in a fantasy Las Vegas, filmed entirely on soundstages. The soundtrack is by Tom Waits, sung by him and Crystal Gayle. There are appearances by Harry Dean Stanton, Lainie Kazan and Rebecca de Mornay.

The film's reception turned out to be somewhat different from the expected glee. Critics savaged it, and it was quickly withdrawn from release. In those days before DVDs and cable TV, it entered into an undeserved obscurity. Now, restored and reedited, the tres-'80s musical returns for a week at the Castro Theatre, Jan. 1-7. All we can say is, Frederic Forrest as a romantic lead? Still, without *One from the Heart*, there would never have been *Moulin Rouge*. ▼

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## FILM

# Beauty and the beast

Charlize Theron becomes a (lesbian?) 'Monster' as Aileen Wuornos

by Robert Julian

Sitting in Charlize Theron's suite at the Stanford Court, I have the peculiar and totally irrational fear that Theron's alter-ego, Aileen Wuornos, will open the bedroom door and dare me to come in. But the "lesbian serial killer" she inhabits so convincingly in the film *Monster* is nowhere to be found. Instead, I am greeted by the flawless beauty audiences are used to seeing in films like *The Cider House Rules* and *The Astronaut's Wife*. Theron quickly perches on the edge of the sofa with her arms and legs casually folded like a party guest waiting for a cocktail. The disparity between the real-life actress and her cinematic creation has critics raving, with the kind of reviews that could lead to an indie upset at this year's Academy Awards — not unlike the one Hilary Swank accomplished a few years back.

*Monster* tells the story of Aileen Wuornos, a prostitute and alcoholic who was executed last year in Florida for killing six men in the early '90s. Most of the men Wuornos killed were potential "johns" who picked her up on the highway. Did Theron ever think she was going to ruin her career or make a fool of herself with her most recent gamble?

"All the time. Even after the movie was done, I had these terrible dreams. I wished we could do it again. I had dreams up to the last week of shooting that Patty [writer/director Patty Jenkins] had replaced me with another actor."

But a few moments later, in the lobby of the Stanford Court, first-time writer/director Jenkins verbalizes no such doubts. Excited and animated, Jenkins is casually dressed and informal. She expresses no reservations about her casting decision, although it is something that has been questioned before.

"For two years, people were saying I was crazy. Up until about a month ago, everyone was accusing me of stunt casting, which is the worst thing that could happen on a movie. But I knew as soon as I cast Charlize that she had an incredible talent, and that she was very dedicated to everything she does. I needed someone as brave and strong as she is to give humanity to the life of Aileen Wuornos."

Jenkins and Theron combine their talents in such a way that *Monster* becomes a riveting if horrifying exploration of a life out of control. But Jenkins' approach keeps the story from becoming depressing or repugnant.

"It's a Greek tragedy," Jenkins opines. "I remembered the story when it broke, and I always thought the way she was portrayed in the media was so different from the way Aileen looked in person. I mean, she was so beaten and broken down, and mistreated."

## Situation tragedy

The most sensational aspect of the case was the representation of Wuornos as America's first "man-hating lesbian serial killer." But neither Jenkins nor Theron believe Wuornos set out to be a serial killer, and the question of her lesbianism is also subject to interpretation. Theron believes the lesbian relationship Wuornos had with Selby Wall (portrayed by Christina Ricci) was more situational.

"Aileen grew up with no love. She was desperate for love. From the time she was six years old, she was abandoned and sent to live with her grandparents. When she was 13, she was raped by one of her grandfather's friends; and at 14, she was kicked out of the house. The greatest journey of her life was to find love; and whatever form it appeared in, she would not be judgmental."

But Patty Jenkins is more specific on the subject of Aileen Wuornos' sexual orientation.

"I think she was not a lesbian. I think she was straight. She had always been straight. She transitioned to lesbianism when she became blind to men sexually. Aileen gave different stories at different times. She had so much shame in her life about everything, it would depend on who she was talking to. She adamantly said she was a lesbian in Daytona Beach before all this crime went down. Then, as soon as she was caught, she vehemently denied

being a lesbian. She was being characterized as a man-hating, lesbian serial killer, and that was shocking to her, because she didn't think that of herself."

## Body language

Theron's portrayal shows a woman full of false bravado. Some viewers may recognize Aileen Wuornos' body language as the kind you might spot on women who inhabit the doorways and alleys around San Francisco's Sixth and Mission Streets. To accomplish her physical transformation, Theron paid particular attention to tapes of Wuornos.

"The tense mouth, the head back — those are things I got from interviews. She was constantly flicking her hair. The whole body language thing is a means of survival on the streets for women. It's dangerous, and they carry themselves in this big, broad way. Aileen was only 5'3". I was shocked to find that out, because every time

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Charlize Theron as Aileen Wuornos, Christina Ricci as Selby Wall

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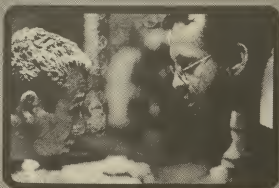


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# Musical celebrations out on DVD

Light operas 'Merry Widow' & 'Oklahoma!' hold up in new productions

by Philip Campbell

Light opera is a category that includes everything from operettas to more serious-minded musicals. It is also a useful catch-all phrase that neatly describes two bright new DVD releases.

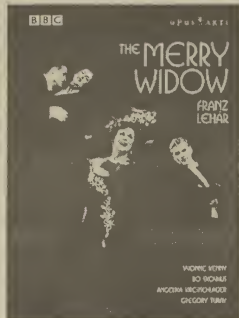
**The Merry Widow** by Franz Lehar; Yvonne Kenny, Bo Skovhus, San Francisco Opera Chorus & Orchestra; Erich Kunzel, conductor (BBC Opus Arte: widescreen format)

Lotfi Mansouri said goodbye to his job as general director of the San Francisco Opera with a jaunty tip of his top hat and an amiable disregard for the accounting department. His last hurrah was an

extravagantly mounted production of Lehar's *Die lustige Witwe* in English. At least, as they say in Hollywood, "The money is all on the screen."

Unfortunately, Mansouri's champagne farewell tasted a little flat at times. The lyrics, from an old Christopher Hassall translation for Sadlers Wells, are perfect, but the specially commissioned dialogue, by Wendy Wasserstein (*The Heidi Chronicles*), is not. Her lame anachronisms, like references to rolling blackouts, make little sense in context with the lavish *fin de siècle* settings, and her jokes are dull.

It was left to the performers to provide the proper frisson, and while they mostly look and sound right, their comic timing is pretty heavy-handed. On the DVD, Bo



Skovhus appears arrogant and dashing enough as the handsome Count Danilo, but his acting is subtle. He is in fine voice, though, and his performance is much better than critics reported at the time.

Yvonne Kenny looks a little too matronly as the glamorous widow, and her upper register has a metallic edge. Still, compared with other aging divas who have tackled the role, she manages a sophisticated and often attractive impersonation. Her famous "Villia Song" ends curiously constricted, but she hits the note, and the effect is charming enough.

The secondary roles are well-played and very prettily sung by Angelika Kirchschlager and Gregory Turay. Both are attractive actors who possess a much lighter touch.

The orchestral playing is buoyant and disciplined under Erich Kunzel, but the real treat of the production is visual. It is fun to

see the beautiful shots of the War Memorial Opera House. The luscious sets and costumes owe more to Broadway glitz than Paris chic, but they also make quite an impression.

Act I is all in black-and-white with the widow in red, like the Ascot scene in *My Fair Lady*. Act II is awash in Arabian costumes right out of *Kismet*; and Act III, at Chez Maxim's, looks like an Art Nouveau take on the Harmonia Gardens in *Hello Dolly*!

That impression is underlined by the acrobatic waiters and the inclusion of a big dance number (the program notes call it a ballet). It is all rather kitschy, but you would have to be in a pretty grumpy mood not to respond. As long as the glorious Lehar melodies are playing, who cares anyway?

**Oklahoma!** by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II; Hugh Jackman, Josefina Gabrielle; Royal National Theatre production directed by Trevor Nunn (Image Entertainment: widescreen format, two discs)

Leave it to the Brits to remind us of just how rich our own musical theater heritage is. Nicholas Hytner brought us a deeply affecting *Carousel* nine years ago. Now Trevor Nunn has re-thought the even more historically important *Oklahoma!*

From the first blazing strains of the overture to the exhilarating finale, this production from The Royal National Theatre is a testament to the genius of Rodgers and



Hammerstein and the stalwart spirit of the American prairie.

Restoring songs that were cut from the movie and taking a generally darker view of personal motivations, Nunn's vision is far more compelling than one could have thought possible.

An exceptionally gifted cast and the artistry of his designers and choreographer helped him to re-create the electric thrill that must have shocked and moved New York theatergoers over a half-century ago.

On widescreen DVD, the spare, evocative settings create a sense of the vastness of nature, and boldly outline the mundane humanity of the lovable central characters.

Laurey must choose between security and adventure while Curly realizes the responsibilities of adulthood. Old Aunt Eller faces the hard future with grit and good

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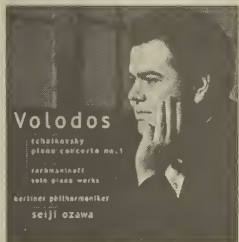
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## First things first

by Jason Serinus

*Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1*  
Arcadi Volodos, piano; Berliner Philharmoniker, Seiji Ozawa (Sony Classical)

Thanks to its unforgettable opening melody, which invariably insinuates its way into the heart, Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto has earned a de-



with tender lyricism, of the sort that loses momentum if played too slowly or without sufficient attention to the work's singing line. Here is where Volodos shines. Every thematic exposition and transition that Tchaikovsky creates sounds poetic in his hands. Take, for example, the opening of the middle movement Andantino. An orchestra can play as slowly and tenderly as it wishes (Barenboim does an exemplary job here), but it is up to the pianist to make the music sing. This Volodos does, first with understated simplicity, then by creating a near magical chiming, shimmering sound. Once through the Andantino's scampering mid-section, his return to the lyrical melody finds his playing even more tender than before.

In Volodos' hands, every measure of the concerto seems to lead inevitably to the next. He constantly moves forward, guided by an understanding that always draws us deeper into Tchaikovsky's universe. Given that the recording is not Sony's finest, Volodos' achievement seems all the greater. Ozawa's conducting is in synch with his pianist, supporting the artist rather than out-nuancing him.

The disc concludes with seven short solo works by Rachmaninoff, including Volodos' transcription of the Italian Polka. Recorded earlier this year in a Berlin studio, they nicely capture the piano's full dynamic range, and provide a fitting conclusion to this major addition to the Tchaikovsky discography. ▼

servedly permanent place in the repertoire. Initially sung by the orchestra punctuated by thunderous chords from the piano, the first theme undergoes several permutations as it migrates to the piano and then to the orchestra, each time with greater effect. But there are so many additional beauties to the work. These include the two Ukrainian folk melodies that Tchaikovsky incorporated into the score; a most tender middle movement Andantino, its lyrical opening and closing book-ending a jaunty mid-section; and a vigorous, fiery final Allegro.

Arcadi Volodos' rendition of the concerto is the third to arrive from a major label in the past few months. The others are Lang Lang backed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Daniel Barenboim (Universal Classics); and 2001's Eleventh Van Cliburn International Piano Competition winner Olga Kern supported by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Christopher Seaman (Harmonia Mundi).

So much of the work is filled

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## MUSIC

# Voices unlocked from the vaults

San Francisco Opera's glory days are newly out on CD



Anna Netrebko triumphed in LA.

by Stephanie von Buchau

If you think I've just been whistling "Dixie" about the paucity of star singers at San Francisco Opera these days, I suggest you check the San Francisco Classical Voice website (SFCV.org) for December 23. Longtime opera fan, box-holder at SFO and Metropolitan Opera, and sometimes kilt-wearer John (Jock) McBaine lets go with a blistering op-ed piece, "Tale of Two Opera Companies," in which he dumps on SFO, while waxing enthusiastically about Plácido Domingo's recent casting at Washington and Los Angeles Operas.

Seems Domingo heard the same thing in Armenian diva Hasmik Papian that I did when she appeared at the War Memorial in *Arshak II* a few years ago. He cast her as Norma, and apparently she had a triumph. (Not sur-

prising, as a former SFO conductor had told me Papian was the best Norma he'd ever heard live.) Then in LA, Domingo cast Anna Netrebko (remember her?) as Lucia and had to deal with another standing ovation. (Poor baby.)

It was instructive, though depressing, to read this piece while I was listening to a new compact disc set called *San Francisco Opera Gems, Vol. 1* (Guild; three discs).

Consisting of the second acts only of five operas representative of SFO in the late '30s and 1940, these historical recordings were taken from broadcasts, and they star the absolute finest vocal artists available in the world at that time. Nobody cared anything about how they looked, how they dressed or what kind of sets they were acting in. Opera in those days was about three things: voices, orchestra, and emotional expression.

And when the voices included artists such as Bidu Sayao, Tito Schipa, Raoul Jobin, Ezio Pinza, Elisabeth Rethberg, Jussi Bjoerling, Frederick Schorr, Lauritz Melchior, Lotte Lehmann and Kirsten Flagstad — well, possums, read it and weep. If staging "Konzept" had been in fashion then, these excerpts would be as meaningless as a recording from most recent SFO productions would be.

There are problems with this set. Broadcasts mean better-than-usual sound considering the age of the documents, but because of time restraints (to say nothing of the tin-eared Philistines running NBC), these "second acts" are not complete. They often end abruptly. The people at Guild occasionally graft on an ending with the same artists but from different performances. Also, because of the era, the conductors themselves sanctioned internal cuts. (All of this is well-documented in the accompanying booklet.) And the orchestra has on- and off-nights; things were not always "better in the old days."

## Fascinating lady

Still, where are you going to hear a Manon like Sayao today? Certainly not Renee Fleming, whose recent recording from Paris (Sony Classical) reveals a gummy, unrhythmic, consonant-less approach to "Adieu, notre petite table," which Sayao sings with crisp diction and subtle rubato, revealing that Manon is clearly a fascinating little bitch, not a maudlin Grand Opera diva. This is followed by Schipa, 25 years after he made his debut as Des Grieux, still singing the most gorgeously modulated "Reve." SFO founder Gaetano Merola is the sensitive conductor. (Massenet: *Manon*; October 13, 1939)

That's definitely the diamond in these "gems." *Carmen's* second act benefits from Pinza's swaggering Escamillo and Jobin's idiomatic Jose, but soprano Marjorie Lawrence, a butch, All-American Carmen, sounds more like a tennis pro than a gypsy outlaw. Merola charges through the score at full speed, with little of the rhythmic charm he applies to Massenet, and the ensemble is atrocious. (Bizet: *Carmen*; October 25, 1940)

Pinza, Sayao, Rethberg, Rise Stevens and John Brownlee were a *Figaro* ensemble direct from the Met. They are obviously having a thumping good old time on stage, but dry-stick conductor Erich Leinsdorf dims the musical good spirits. (Mozart: *Nozze di Figaro*; October 12, 1940)

The part of *Un Ballo in Maschera's* second act that survives here makes one wish for the complete opera. Rethberg's soprano tends to reproduce metallically, but the 27-year-old Bjoerling is as ardent as any Riccardo while maintaining honeyed suavity. Gennaro Papi's conducting is suitably passionate in Verdi's only Wagnerian love duet. (Verdi: *Un Ballo in Maschera*; October 23, 1940)

Finally, we have most of Act II (with the "usual" cuts and a doctored ending) of *Die Walkure*, superbly conducted by Fritz Reiner, starring Melchior and Lehmann as the Volsung lovers, the magisterial Schorr as Wotan (though short on top, he's devastating in the monologue), and Flagstad in her prime as Brunnhilde (no trill, but her "Ho-jo-to-hos" are charming). This entire three-disc set is worth the price for a searing "Annunciation of Death," with both singers and conductor on fire. (Wagner: *Die Walkure*; November 13, 1936.) ▼

# Live Mahler, old & new

by Tim Pfaff

I deal live performances recorded for posterity are the bane of music-lovers' lives. Because they prove what mere mortals can do, without the engineers and their tricks, they also can ruin a piece (subsequent live performances of it, that is) for good. These experiences define the circle of Hell reserved for the musically greedy. Buddhists would talk about grasping, Calvinists craving and clutching, a sensual experience intended for the moment only. To which I reply, And your point is?

The bane of my musical existence is a reel-to-reel tape I made of a live performance of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy in 1974. This was from the glory days of classical radio, when every night brought broadcasts from a different major orchestra, but that's the lament for another day.

The tape still exists in one of the five homes where I left precious belongings when I fled pre-Bush America for the mountains of northern Laos. That I don't know which house is the start of a long, surely necessary but excruciating process of letting go. It both helps and hurts that, because I listened to it hundreds of times, it is burned in my memory, and I can hear it start to finish anytime I want, in my head. But the insatiable reptile aesthete in my mind is sure that if it could hear that performance in real sound just one more time, it could, like Fafner, sleep in its cave, however irritable. This is the siren song of the singer addict.

I say "singer" because, on that divine evening in 1974, the singers of that *Das Lied* were the vastly underrated John Alexander, who sang Pollione on the first opera recording I ever owned, and Janet Baker, pre-Dame but at the very apex of her astonishing powers. Near the beginning of "Der Abschied," the last of Mahler's six movements, she took the long, ecstatic line, "O sieh! Wie eine Silberbarke schwebt der Mond," in one long arc and, in defiance of

natural law, just two breaths, one for each verbal phrase.

When she arrived at "Mond," she still had enough breath to savor the word. Then, in the movement's famous ending, on a series of "ewig's," her dynamic shading was so astounding that, in the final one, it was impossible to tell the exact moment at which her voice, *pianissimo*, emerged from the orchestral sound and sank back into it. That experience won't let me alone.



Need I state that I have all of Baker's recorded performances of the work, each of which is fine but none of which equals that night she owned the piece. When I read that the *BBC Legends* series had released a new live Baker version, with Rudolf Kempe conducting the BBC Symphony only a year later (October 8, 1975), my life hung in the balance until amazon.co.uk (vastly better than amazon.com, my music madmen) delivered.

It frequently approaches, but never attains, greatness, though no Baker fanatic will be able to do without it. It is the best of her live performances of the piece on CD, which is all the bait I need to put out. But it's a performance whose most interesting feature is the struggle she has with it. When it's supreme mastery you seek, struggle is a pale substitute. Kempe and the tenor, Ludovic Spiess, are fine. Still.

Live recordings are tricky. Everyone I know who was in the audience for MTT's Mahler Sixth, later released on the Symphony's own imprint, has remarked that the CD, fine as it is, doesn't quite feel like the "real thing." All agree that it is more than just because

the news of the week of the live performance, 9/11, no longer informs the performance.

The British press has voiced no such complaints about the London Symphony's Mahler Sixth of November 2002, recently released on the orchestra's own LSO Live series. No wonder. The sound is so good you can tell where the coughers are sitting; and the interpretation, by Mariss Jansons, is bracing: highly individual yet undiosyncratic, taut, concentrated, determinedly unsentimental, and cumulatively, an enormously powerful journey through Mahler's valley of death. ▼

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## Juanita MORE!

◀ Arts cover

way without either falling down, a shoe flying off, or smashing into the wall. Then Mr. David makes Michael a dress, and since David is a genius at sewing, he makes it the most gorgeous gown imaginable. As night comes, as Mr. David is applying his new creation's makeup, he abruptly stands back and exclaims: "Oh, no!"

Alarmed, Michael cries out: "What?!"

"You're going to be soooo pretty!"

"No, don't say that to me," Michael moans, but Mr. David persists, and from the miraculous makeover emerges the diva Juanita, who is not merely a sensational faux woman constantly surrounded and doted upon by a troupe of ultra-sexy More Boys. She is a dream come true.

"I put that wig on, and I put the dress on, and I put the shoes on, and walked right out of this house," says Juanita. "I did not fall down. I've never fallen since!"

### Female energies

People came up to Juanita that first Halloween out, asking: "Who are you? Where did you get that dress?" Juanita found herself channeling all the energy of the women who had influenced her since she was a kid. She drew from Endora, the mother of Samantha on *Bewitched*; from the Dinah Washington, Etta James, and Sarah Vaughn records her dad played; from her vivacious Puerto Rican aunt who drove huge Cadillacs and wore tons of gold jewelry and diamonds; and even from the memory of her own mother being the life of the party. All those female energies came together in Juanita.

Of course, it takes far more than just a female persona to create a great hostess for fundraisers. Juanita also happens to be one of the city's most-requested club DJs, though she admits she doesn't so much DJ as just play records, and sometimes someone has to yell at her to pick up the needle.

Nor is she just the pretty poster-face for those suffering

from Hodgkin's, though Michael/Juanita tells one of the disease's most compelling stories. "It was my third round of Hodgkin's lymphoma coming back," says Michael of his most recent diagnosis, "and it was just not what my doctors wanted to hear, not what I wanted to hear. They really sort of told me it was going to be my last; it was their last chance at giving me treatment for it. If the treatment didn't work, there's really not another option for it again. So we gave it a shot, and I did a round of chemo, but really I ended up doing half of the full treatment because I just couldn't take it, I was so sick, it was so nasty. So, I've still got some lumps, and stopped doing chemo. They said, go back to doing what you do until it comes back again. I actually feel good right now, despite the fact that I'm a little lumpy in some spots. Mentally, I am just loving my life again. That's the key, and it's fast, furious and full."

In a sense, Juanita is Dorothy's dream realized. She's at the center of Oz, outfitted in emerald slippers, floating on air, accompanied by loving friends and adored by everyone.

Juanita is, in essence, a collaborative art project. "I knew so many talented people in this city, so many great hairdressers, so many awesome makeup artists. I've always been into fashion. I was in high school, working my after-school job, saving every single cent I would get to go to Wilkes Bashford to buy one pair of shoes that cost me \$300. In high school! I mean, I've always been fashion-oriented."

The creation of Juanita satisfied some of the fashion cravings Michael wasn't completely able to fulfill as a boy. "Oh my god," he realized as he became Juanita, "I can wear more clothes than I already wear!"

Now Michael sews as many of Juanita's outfits as David does, and he prides himself on the quality of his creations. "I've never bought anything from a thrift store, everything's couture. I think I've created a style that's super-high fashion, and super-glamorous. I've always wanted to be gorgeous. I've always wanted to look like a million dollars."

"I'm a pretty grounded person to begin with," Michael says. "I think I have a pretty strong sense of reality. That's what keeps all the fantasy going, because I understand where my feet should be. Even when I'm really going at full speed as Juanita, I'm fully aware of what's happening, of what energy



Juanita MORE! (Michael Rodriguez) always satisfies her fashion cravings.

I want around me.

"It's funny, because a couple of years ago, I finally came to this realization that Juanita was just a mirror of somebody else's energy. When somebody looks at me and smiles, I'm smiling back. When

somebody's yelling at me, from six feet away, I yell back at them. If they come up to me and they're shy to hug me, I'm shy to hug them. I'm just a mirror of other people's energy, other people's beauty." ▼

## Oklahoma! DVD

◀ page 26

humor; and troubled hired-hand Jud crumbles under the weight of his own loneliness.

The wonderful cast — Hugh Jackman, Josefina Gabrielle, Maureen Lipman and Shuler Hensley (who won the Tony) — essay these roles with rare conviction and insight. The comedy parts of Ado Annie and Will Parker are equally believable, with the darling Vicki Simon and Jimmy Johnston giving it their enthusiastic best. Ali Hakim, the "Persian" peddler by way of Flatbush Avenue, is the amusing Peter Polycarpou.

It is amazing that everyone, from the principals to the chorus, does their own singing and dancing. Triple-threat casting makes Susan Stroman's new choreography exceptionally convincing. We might miss the old Agnes DeMille

stylization, but the sheer energy of the more athletic movement is scintillating.

There really isn't a weak link in the show. Putting back a lot of discarded material may make for a long evening, but the resulting depth is worth it. It doesn't hurt that hunky Jackman strips to the waist for the fight scene, or that the ballet is surprisingly erotic. Also, Jud and Ali Hakim get to really flesh out their characters with the forgotten "Lonely Room" and "It's a Scandal! It's an Outrage!"

Nunn filmed on a soundstage, but makes it appear to be a live performance, with shots of the theater audience responding delightedly with rousing ovations. Sound and picture are both superb.

If you think you don't like musicals, the significance of this production might well change your mind. It is a true celebration of an all-American artform. ▼

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## BOOKS

# What is sexy?

by Glen Helfand

*Art - A Sex Book* by John Waters and Bruce Hainley (Thames and Hudson, \$29.95)

It takes a special someone to find contemporary art sexy. Sure, it's not difficult to find someone who gets a little frisson of pleasure from a photo of the naked and nubile, or the unflinching documentation of a subversive act of penetration. But there's something rarer and more perverse about being turned on, both physically and mentally, by complex, perhaps obtuse works at the MoMA.

This is one of the premises of the brain- and sometimes groin-titillating new volume by filmmaker/artist John Waters and critic/curator Bruce Hainley. In *Art - A Sex Book*, the kind of contemporary artworks that usually lead unseasoned viewers to simply scratch their heads and dismiss the whole arena are sprayed with an alluring conceptual scent of musk. The authors give a new and often sexy spin to images that don't initially scream with sensuality, and lend more serious consideration to images with un-cloaked porno roots.

Like beauty, the notion of sexiness is in the eye of the beholder, and here the eyes belong to a pair of art-world denizens with well-articulated, somewhat exclusive tastes. It's fairly common knowledge that John Waters has a thing for the perverse as well as contemporary art — passions that came together in his 1998 film, *Pecker*, where he satirized both the making and consumption of contemporary art. Besides making

films, he's a noted collector and has some fun with gallery-world conventions by making his own photo-pieces and clever sculptures (see his current show at Rena Bransten Gallery, through January 3.)

## Bruce boon

LA-based Bruce Hainley, who spearheaded this project and invited Waters to collaborate, is one of the most interesting and opinionated voices in contemporary art criticism. His writing for *Artforum* offers a particularly queer eye for art and culture. In his 2003 Top 10 in the current issue of the mag, he cites the SoCal soap *The O.C.* as "Douglas Sirk on ecstasy," a notion that deeply resonates in certain circles.

*Art* is essentially a collaboratively organized group exhibition, one with a perversely carnal theme, in book form. The idea that the author/curators are creating a "sexual space" is made evident by titling their chapters "rooms." Each contains thematically or visually connected artworks that enhance an erotic read. These spaces are simply numbered, and behind each "door" are provocative visual morsels that reveal the pleasure in curating, in pointing to unexpected connections between unlikely images. Given Waters' involvement, it's not surprising that the tone of the project is queer, as in peculiar.

How else can one term the inclusion of inherently unsexy works like a reproduction of a 1-hour-photo receipt by Larry Clark, or a deadpan color image of a generic airport tarmac by Fischli & Weiss? You'll have to read the transcripts of the often entertaining, sometimes pretentious



conversation between the two authors to get the context, which is sometimes convincing, sometimes not. These interview-style texts, however, also point to the erotic allure of a good dialogue. It's not exactly pillow talk, and Hainley makes a concerted effort to state that the works should not only be read through a veil of sexuality, but there's plenty of fun to be had in looking at them in this way.

Graphic iterations of flesh and curious practices here include a few pop artifacts like the cover of the gay-for-pay *Old Reliable* video catalog, with its selection of naked, cigar-chomping str8 guys; and a good selection of male-stripper snapshots by infamous fan-with-an-Instamatic Gary Boas, who also offers a fantastic 1975 picture of thespian goddess Geraldine Page with truly scary hair. But more often, the carnality is filtered through more artistic eyes. Jeff Burton, who has created an interesting body of work by photographing from the sidelines of gay-porn shoots, is represented here with more explicit imagery than he's published before. The pictures, most dated 1999 and scattered through the book, are oddly offhand shots that, while graphic, aren't necessarily erotic. One pinkish-hued photo shows two dicks docking. Another depicts a side-view formidable limp penis dangling disembodied in a

dark glory-hole. The curved dick contrasts with a grid of chain that dominates the composition. The picture evokes those Eva Hesse issues of linking rigid modernist structure with the pliable uncertainty of genitalia.

A queer heterosexual viewpoint is represented by perry images of women by Richard Kern, who contributes a memorable image of a voluptuous mother-daughter duo who fondle their large breasts and genitals on a couch. Another of Kern's images, a woman with her breasts bound in rope to become reddening balls, is paired with a more enigmatic formalist sculpture by SF-based Vincent Fecteau (an artist whom Hainley fervently champions and Waters collects), a piece that features two small wooden spheres

set within a vaguely architectural space. It's this kind of unexpected juxtaposition that is Waters and Hainley's more usual trope, and quite often it leads us in fascinating, eye-opening directions.

That said, this *Sex Book* doesn't always transcend the chilliness of its art-world insider position, even if the art-speak is peppered with references to camel toes and trade. But the authors aren't necessarily aiming for mass appeal. Waters has described his playful interest in equating a gallery's back room, that place with the secret stash of goodies that dealers reserve for special customers, with the similarly named grope chamber in a smoky gay bar. If those two locations have meaning to you, *Art - A Sex Book* will feel just like home. ▼

# Outward bound

by Jim Piechota

*Rainbow High* by Alex Sanchez; Simon & Schuster, \$16.95

Walt Whitman High School is revisited once more as Jason, Kyle, and Nelson, the teenage stars of Sanchez's swift, engaging novel *Rainbow Boys* (2001), hit the hallowed high school halls for one more year of strained swim meets, inquisitive parents, and hazardous dating situations.

Armed with their "2Q2BSTR8" buttons and Gay-Straight Alliance posters (that keep getting torn down), all three boys stomp across the threshold of their senior year happy and reasonably content, though trouble lurks around each

and every corner.

There's homophobia in the locker room in the dust. Soon, Nelson's HIV paranoia shifts into overkill, though he tests sero-negative.

At the tail end of this adolescent rainbow are visions of true love ("tongues to tonsils") and Prom Night. The more sensitive issues are handled adroitly, and some situations will strike nostalgic chords from those readers whose high school years were pure hell. Several pages of important contact information touching on issues within the book are provided on the very last pages.

Young gay adults who want a novel that speaks directly to them without being patronizing will be entertained by Sanchez's talents once again. ▼

Kyle's parents are hoping to send their son to Princeton, but

he's confused, since moving away to college would mean leaving Jason in the dust. Soon, Nelson's HIV paranoia shifts into overkill, though he tests sero-negative.

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to Wuornos. But according to Theron, Wuornos remained true to Selby in her fashion.

"There's a *Court* TV tape of Selby on the stand. Whenever the camera cuts to Aileen during Selby's testimony, she's crying like a nine-year-old girl, breaking down. At one point she looks up, and there's a little nod of forgiveness. Betrayal wasn't new to Aileen, but she took full responsibility for her acts and never tried to drag Selby into it. She felt terrible that she had lost the one and only love of her life. She was a caretaker by nature, and she wanted to take care of Selby, and she did that right up to the time she was executed."

At the end of *Monster*, when Wuornos is arrested, most people will feel a sense of relief, but not happiness. Justice may have been served by the execution of Aileen Wuornos, but Patty Jenkins sees this as something of a gray area. "This is where life becomes complex. I don't know how to talk about the judicial system. I don't think Aileen was a victim of men, I think she was a victim of society. As far as love is concerned, finding that with a woman was what became honest and true for her. But Aileen hated everyone. Everybody let her down." ▼

Now playing.

## Monster

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she would walk into the courtroom, there was a kind of swagger with the shoulders back and the head back. She appeared bigger than she was. It's that blowfish scenario. You can't be a little flower kind of person and survive on the streets. You'll be crushed."

Aileen Wuornos never spoke to her lover Selby Wall after Selby testified against her at trial. Within eight months of Wuornos' arrest, Wall wrote to Wuornos and told her she had found the woman of her dreams, and this woman did not want her to continue writing

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# Ring in the new cheer

## 2004: Year Of The Monkey

Mister Marcus

The 2004 Solar New Year rings in this week and the 2004 Lunar New Year — the "Year of the Monkey" — commences on 1/22/2004, so you can expect people to be partying pretty much the whole month of January!

According to the Lunar Calendar, monkey people are very intelligent, well-liked by everyone and should have success in any field they choose. They are also quick to anger but the anger fades in a short time. How many monkey people do you know? Those born in 1956, 1968, 1980 and 1992 are considered monkey people and notable monkey people are Elizabeth Taylor, Omar Sharif, Jimmy Page, Roger Daltrey and George Lucas. But enough of astrology, you're more interested in leather, aren't you?

As we head into 2004, there are several major and minor events coming your way. And although the following is not complete, it will give you at least a planning schedule.

### January

Boston's leather community kicks off the year with the Fetish Fair and Flea Market the weekend of January 9-11 and that same weekend, Club X in San Diego presents an "Edge Fest" (you all know what playing on the "edge" is all about!). It will be a weekend of demos and workshops preceded by a Friday night Meet & Greet at Bacchus House.

The first of nine contests in Los Angeles will choose Mr. Gauntlet II at the contest there on Saturday, Jan. 10th. The big one of the month is the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, DC when Alvin York will step aside for his successor the weekend of Jan. 16-19. For details: [www.leatherweekend.com](http://www.leatherweekend.com).

### February

The Heart of America Leather Family will take place in Kansas City, MO. Feb. 6-8; International Bear Rendezvous is the weekend of Feb. 13-16 when International Mr. Bear will be chosen. The same weekend Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather will be chosen in the city of Brotherly Love while in Chicago several holy cows will be honored at the Pantheon of Leather. No word on whether the Cell Block will stake a leather man this year.



Mr. Marcus toasts Kim Kuzma, the singing sensation from Canada who is beguiling fans at Martuni's and was a stand-out at Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" show earlier in December.

South Plains Leather Fest in Dallas is the weekend of Feb. 26-29 and in San Francisco, Snatch and Michael will step aside for their successors to the Emperor and Empress thrones of San Francisco.

### March

Tulsa Mr. Leather will be chosen at the Tool Box in Tulsa, Oklahoma the weekend of March 5-7; and in Los Angeles, Stephen Blackwell (2nd runner-up at IML 2003) steps aside for the new Mr. Los Angeles Leather. No word yet on the Washington State Mr. Leather competition usually held in March.



Leather

### April

IMs.L. Tammie Nelson produces the Indiana Leather Sir/boy competition in Indianapolis weekend of April 2-4. The biggest thing in April: American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC, Bill, Sheryl and Jeffrey step aside for successors.

Dennis McMahon presents C.L.A.W. (Cleveland Leather Annual Weekend) in Cleveland this weekend with IML John Pandal the celebrity host.

### May

At my deadline, the only event I have scheduled is the International Mr. Leather 2004 competition in Chicago during Memorial Day Weekend. I hope you've made your reservations for both the hotel and the weekend package.

### June

Aside from all the Gay Pride parades and celebrations around the country, so far I've received no press releases for leather events for all of June 2004. I'll pass information along as soon as I get it.

### July

The Canadian Leather Man, Woman and Boy titles debut this month at the Ottawa Sheraton Hilton. Andy Anderson assures me you'll be the first to know the details when finalized.

In San Francisco, it's the 22nd SF Leather Daddy competition, California Leather Family contests and the Dore Alley Fair ALL on the last weekend of July. The town will be overrun as Up Your Alley continues to grow to mammoth proportions.

All of the above should keep you busy planning. Of course, you can't make them ALL, but it's fun trying, isn't it?

### Donna, T.J., Sheba and Kim

The holiday season in San Francisco saw scads of parties all over the place. The Donna Sachet "Songs of the Season" show in the Plush Room of the Hotel York played to a packed house and earned thunderous approval. While all the performers were great, the standouts were the duet by T.J. Istvan and Ms. Sheba, and a newcomer to Donna's show, Kim Kuzma, who was an absolute hit with the audience. Her unique stylings with Christmas Carols were met with great applause. At her cabaret show later in December at Martuni's, she had a mesmerized audience at her feet. A delightful warbler, she's cute and establishes a great rapport with her audience. Keep an eye on this name!

### Go Gay Men's Chorus!

The Gay Men's Chorus had three sell-out performances at the Castro Theatre on Christmas Eve. It was a thrilling experience to see over 200 men onstage making the audience feel happy to be alive and enjoying the holiday season. Good show all around.

Dr. Kathleen McGuire led the group in rousing numbers, including a Kwanzaa song called "Harambee," a Winter Solstice song by Dar Williams called "The Christians and the Pagans" sung by Ben Holder, a funny piece about a fruitcake, and a Hanukkah song called "Hine Ma Tov."

Meg Mackay was brilliant in her tribute to The Carpenters, and did much to light up the night.

We're on the brink of a new year. Many accomplishments, many things to be happy about, some regrettable losses and yet, life goes on in the pioneering spirit of the GLBTQ of San Francisco. Have a great New Year celebration and see you next week! ▼



Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn, left, congratulates the vivacious "Sheba" after her dazzling performance with T.J. Istvan at Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" show.

## PORN

# Powerhouse play

by John F. Karr

This could be pick of the litter. It could be picking through the litter. And it could be a little bit of both. Here's the first of a couple of attempts to sweep my shelves clean of the movies I didn't get to last year.

*Butts, Boyz & Boners* is a title whose adolescent misspelling and similarly jaunty moniker for cock puts me in mind of skateboarders. Wrong. This movie features Men. They're more like biker doodz. This 75-minute movie has four unrelated vignettes which are populated by definite



## Karnal Knowledge

adults, rough players all. The feature is only the fourth from local company HandHeldFlix, and I gotta say their product lives up (or down) to their name. The first scene, a JO solo for a heftily cocked blond, is especially vertiginous. Although the waves get less choppy as things go along, remaining unchanged are harsh lights, grainy picture, erratic pacing, clumsy editing, and a constantly inappropriate soundtrack, which replaces natural sound with a shifting montage of click tracks, musique concrète, shards of Stravinsky, manipulated Chopin, methed-up dance cuts, and electronic bleeps that let us know Morton Subotnick didn't die in vain. It reeks of artsy-fartsy, and you'll have to turn it off.

Performer-turned-director Eli Horst overreaches his present skill-level with conceits (black-and-white segments, morphing or stuttering views of the action, and the irritating soundtrack) that appreciably undercut his players.

Still. Those players have their attractions. In a scene that really picks up steam, a trio of South of Marketers go at it in *The Powerhouse*. Furry-chested daddy Ray Stone stuffs his double-wide into two tattooed, cock-ringed lads — no doubt the titular "boyz."

Highlight of the movie should have been the ritualistic "Porn Noir" segment, in which the estimable Joshua Scott gets a brash banging after he drips candle-wax on the godly, stern-faced Samoth. This dude's milk-white body is solid steel, impressively

ripped, and completely hairless except for eyebrows and goa-

tee. His perfectly proportioned pylon of cock demands worship. Which I'll do soon, when I review his more capably filmed performances for Factory Video. Meantime, this sometimes purposefully but mostly accidentally gritty movie is a very San Franciscan sluce of life. Lotsa pictures on the website. [www.handheldflix.com](http://www.handheldflix.com); (415) 595-6376

## Shaven splendor

If you drooled when I mentioned a shaved crotch (oh, the acornous appendage, the smooth, hard groin of Samoth), you'll find definite delight in the diverse depilations of *Tease*. Here, the oneculate loins of no less than three highly delectable men have been shorn, Samsonized to the source. Crystal Crawford, porn's other drag directrix, has made a movie that's full of tease. She's a loin-lover who dawdles over some beautiful dicks in five scenes of up-beat, solo wanking, before she serves as finale a cocksucking

dessert.

Although its title is apt, *Tease* might more rightfully be called *Horny Hotel*. It's set in a Las Vegas establishment in which a well-groomed bellman, a guest, his employees, and a visiting hustler wag their wangs willy-nilly. My pulse raced for young punk KC, whose grand dick and tough look make me eager to see him again. My glands positively swelled for both scenes in which rosy-cheeked, raven-haired Chet Hawkins displayed a plushly upholstered body and a meaty tube of cock, and my breath was stopped by newcomer Eric Stuart.

Rosy blond Eric Stuart in *Tease*

This rosy blond is all bulging bicep, big bazoom and bursting bazooka. At 5'10" and 215 lbs., he's a muscle-packed, big man with a Marine's buzzcut and handsomely clean-cut features. It's a real thrill ride over the ridges of his six-packed torso, and down a golden, taut and tansured slide onto his glamorous tool.

Stuart's the movie's *chef-d'oeuvre*, and after the succession of solo scenes, however engrossing they are, both he and we are happy to see lips wrapped around his glowing piece of meat, as a hardworking hustler sucks his way to a glory that's soon splattered over his face. This unpretentious movie is propelled by Miko's hip hop and dance music, and is nicely edited by Waymo Studios. No credit for the videography, but it's all-seeing as it slides around the movie's upstanding features, while crisp resolution makes those cocks glisten. More pics of Eric Stuart at [www.coverboypictures.com](http://www.coverboypictures.com). [www.arenaentinc.com](http://www.arenaentinc.com); (818) 985-3224 ▼

Leo Franks, Ray Stone and Joshua Adams in *Butt Boyz & Boners*: stuffed

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Wednesday, January 31

Wet shower dudes highlight New Year's Eve at the Powerhouse tonight with \$5 advance/\$10-door. Sounds like fun!

### Sunday, January 4

SF Leather Dyke Boy Shayne presents "Welcome to America, Boy!" beer/soda bust at Daddy's today from 1600-2000 with entertainment by Snatch and Darryl Jensen, a 50/50 raffle, auction for a dinner date with Dyke Daddy Jay and "Leave It To Beaver" cake! Beaver Cake? Hmmm.

### Thursday, January 8

That infamous Underwear Night at the Powerhouse. Paul Tucci is always in his glory that night!

### Friday, January 9

SF Leather Sir Tom Braddock celebrates his birthday from 2100 to 2300 at the Powerhouse. No de-

tails at my deadline.

### Weekend, January 9-11

Fetish Fair & Fleamarket at the Boston park Plaza Hotel in Boston. Click on [www.bostonparkplaza.com](http://www.bostonparkplaza.com). Also "Edge Fest: in San Diego. See text above.

### Saturday, January 10

Release party for Robert Davolt's book, "Painfully Obvious" at Daddy's from 1600 to 1900. Refreshments, autographed copies, etc.

In Sacramento, the Sacto. Valley Leathermen install their new officers at The Bolt at 2000, a bar hop and back to the Bolt.

### Weekend, January 16-20

Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, DC with tons of events and a new Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather. For info on all aspects of the event, click on: [www.leatherweekend.com](http://www.leatherweekend.com).

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# OUT&ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon

### Not cool

I don't know whether it's evil genius or willful self-destruction to deliberately provoke people with racist stereotypes in the name of entertainment in this town. I was not at the recent Trannyshack episode in which racist entertainment has been alleged, but doing blackface strikes me as a really dumb thing to do. It's not nice, or polite, to anyone, not even a bunch of white guys watching a bunch of mostly white drag queens. Maybe the piece was ironic, I don't know. Reportedly the performer in question is mixed-race, apparently half black. If so, I'd say that gives him/her leeway. Maybe the piece was designed to provoke, and if that's the case, it worked superbly. From the sound of it, though, the performance was a flop, otherwise I suspect it would have provoked a different response, assuming it was done with some degree of sophistication.

I disagree with *Holy Titclamps!* "Queer Things To Do In San Francisco" website publisher Larry-bob Roberts's immediate response, which was to email Heklina with the admonition: "Nobody has a right to be listed in my event listings, and I don't feel it's a good idea for me to be listing stuff like this. It's clear that it wasn't some big surprise to you that this was going to be going on, since there's pictures right on your website. I've removed Trannyshack listings from my website. So far I haven't posted up the reason for this or sent out mass email but that may come soon."

This is an extraordinary response to the event, and though I respect Larry-bob immensely for his tireless and brilliant efforts on behalf of the queer performance community, I can't follow his reasoning in this. It's not that I don't share the underlying emotion, I do; but I also think we have to step back and take a big, deep breath.

We all have different experiences in life, and while I've enjoyed the dozen or so Trannyshack shows I've seen over the years, having found them a mix of crude female stereotypes (that I know how to parse for ironic vs. sexist content) and breathtaking music/performance genius, I understand others, especially including my dear friend and former roommate James L. Smith, a major force in the queer DJ scene hereabouts, has felt directly and personally offended by black stereotyping, experiencing it as racist. I've heard of a few Trannyshack shows — out of maybe hundreds — that had racist content. One night in particular made the news since the entire evening reportedly stereotyped Latinos/as.

Maybe listings for Trannyshack should include stiff warnings: Caution, anyone entering may encounter crude, rude, racist/sexist skits, a good deal of mediocrity, occasional glimpses of naked truth, and precious moments of transcendent art. But to not list a club that has enlivened the performance community so well and for so long? I'm not ready for that yet.

I don't always list Trannyshack, but that has more to do with space limitations and a desire to diversify listings than anything else. I can't list everything. But I also feel a boycott of Trannyshack is not yet called for, though for sure the community needs to dialog on this issue. I'll be glad to list any forums people organize on the matter. Contact me well in advance at: [Calendare@AOL.com](mailto:Calendare@AOL.com). ▼



Wes Hempel unveils his "Revised Endings," paintings with strong modern homoeroticism in classical settings, at Jenkins Johnson Gallery. See Thursday

## Fri

### 'AKA' @ Roxie Cinema

Opening night: Third Rock and Bard Entertainments present "AKA," a film by Duncan Roy, winner of the HBO First Feature Award, Outfest LA 2002, Best Fiction Film, Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Fest, 2002. Starring Matthew Leitch, Lindsey Coulson, Diana Quick, George Asprey, Blake Ritson, Peter Youngblood Hills and Bill Nighy. "Dean, a troubled, working-class lad from London, lands a job in a high-end art gallery and glimpses a world where the right name means instant acceptance. When the blue-blooded gallery owner takes him under her wing and into her family, the temptation for Dean to strip her son's aristocratic identity and join the jet-set life of parties, drugs and status proves too powerful to resist." — Shari Frlot, Sundance Film Festival. Showtimes: Nightly at 7 & 9:30 with addition Wed, Sat & Sun at 2:00 & 4:30. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. (at Valencia). Info: 863-1087; [www.roxie.com](http://www.roxie.com)

### Wesla Whitfield @ The Plush Room

In concert: Wesla Whitfield, a remarkable singer with a deep love for that rich storehouse of musical treasures often identified as The Great American Popular Songbook. Tonight, with Mike Greensill on piano, she asks the musical question: Why Shouldn't I? \$25 plus 2-drink minimum. 8pm. Nightly through Nov. 10 (no shows Mon. & Tue.). York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800; [www.plushroom.com](http://www.plushroom.com)

### 'Va Va Voom Room' @ 'Late Night at Empire'

The Plush Room's "Late Night at Empire" presents "The Va Va Voom Room," called "The Greatest Burlesque Show on Earth." After-party with DJ Mauricio Aviles, hosted by Primo. \$20 adv; \$25 door. Doors open 11pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800; [www.plushroom.com](http://www.plushroom.com)

## Sat

### Flower Cops/G.A.W.K. @ Magnet

Welcome to the Flower Cops! Originally inspired by Anti-War Protests during the Gulf War (part 1), the Flower Cops perform a style of music called Folk-a-Delic: whimsical mantras for a generation with a short attention span. Their melodies of innocence resonate as they take you on a journey into tongue-in-cheek satire, where it's just as much

fun to be serious as it is to have serious fun! The Flower Cops will be just one of the performances presented by G.A.W.K., the Gay Artists and Writers Collective. Special treat: Conversation with G.A.W.K. founder Jon Sugar and radio host/film columnist David Lamble. Free. 5pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: Jon Sugar at 731-2424 or Rhab at 626-2986; [www.magnetst.org](http://www.magnetst.org)

### Women on the Way @ El Rio

Footloose takes over El Rio for a rockin' performance party to benefit the performers from the Women on the Way Festival. Featuring The Lipstick conspiracy, Surrender Dorothy and DJ Pussup, with MC Dattner. \$10-\$25 sliding. 9pm-1am. 3158 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez). Info: 626-2169; [www.venue9.com](http://www.venue9.com)

### Gay & Lesbian Sierrans @ Henry Coe State Park

Join Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS) for a challenging



Meet Charlie Anders, publisher of *Other* — "The Magazine for People Who Defy Categories" — as he teams up with rocker Shawna Virago for "GenderEnders" at Cherry Bar. See Tuesday.

12-mile hike in one of the most picturesque and remote locations in the Bay Area. The route begins and ends at the headquarters of Henry Coe State Park, the largest state park in California and one of the region's best-kept secrets. Meet at the SF Safeway (Church & Market) at 8:15am for carpooling, or at the park HQ at 10:15am. Bring lunch, water, money for gas, and layered clothing. Rain or threatening skies cancels the hike. Contact hike leader at 415-753-1191 or email [jburke56@earthlink.net](mailto:jburke56@earthlink.net)

### Spencer Day's 'Crimson Club' @ 'Late Night at Empire'

The Plush Room's "Late Night at Empire" presents Spencer Day and the "Crimson Club" performing wild and crazy numbers for your late-night enjoyment. \$8 w/no drink minimum. Doors open 10:30pm. Info: [www.plushroom.com](http://www.plushroom.com)

## Sun

### Veronica Klaus @ The Plush Room

She's back as *Gloss Magazine* and the Plush Room present "All of Me," bringing Veronica Klaus's sizzling vocals and hot trio to the Plush Room for another super-cool set of sultry jazz, bluesy Cabaret, and the occasional show tune. Featuring Tammy Hall on piano, Dan Fabricant on bass, and Randy Odell on drums. With special guests Mr. David, Michael Soldier, and surprises. For 14 years, since moving to SF from Illinois, Veronica has invented and

reinvented herself time and again, always improving. What began as a small ensemble and eventually grew into a 12-piece mini-Ray Charles orchestra has now been winnowed down to the perfect jazz/blues combo. Veronica has been the toast of the Great American Music Hall, Cafe Du Nord, Fillmore West, Slim's, Wigstock West Club Universe and the Lush Lounge, among other musical venues. \$20 plus 2-drink minimum. 7pm. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (at Hyde). Info: [www.plushroom.com](http://www.plushroom.com)

### High Energy Worship & Praise @ MCC-SF

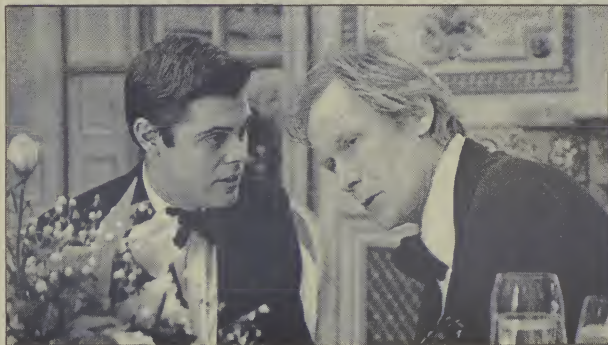
Start the week with a joyful celebration of queer spirit! This high-energy service of worship and praise features contemporary and gospel music with choral support from MCC's Worship & Praise Team choir and band. Hear the inspiring words of Penny Nixon as the congregation grows and learns together about how the spirit found in community can be with us always, how our lives can be truly transformed. Come as you are, leave with a song in your heart, a connection to Spirit. Communion is shared weekly, and people are available for individual prayer after each worship service. Sermons transcripts are available online. Sunday Evenings at 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: 863-4434; [www.mccsf.org](http://www.mccsf.org)

### 'Welcome to America, boy!' @ Daddy's Bar

Women's Leather Event: Join San Francisco Leather Dyke boy Shayne for an evening of fun and frolic to benefit L.Y.R.I.C., Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center. Entertainment featuring SF High High Empress Snatch and Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Darryl Jansen. "Show Me The Money," 50/50 Raffle, "Leave it to Beaver" Cake, SF Leather Dyke Daddy J, to the highest bidder! Convince Shayne why San Francisco is the place to be and win a fabulous prize. No staple guns, no staples, just some plain fun! 4-8pm: 440 Castro Street. For more info, contact [sflthydyke-boy03@hotmail.com](mailto:sflthydyke-boy03@hotmail.com).

### Beer Bust @ The Eagle Tavern

The famous Calendar Men Dinner Date Auction! Six of the calendar men (who



Matthew Leitch as Dean and Bill Nighy as Uncle Louis in *AKA* at the Roxie. See Fri.



Vivacious vocalist Veronica Klaus heats up the stately Plush Room with "All of Me," her special night of sultry jazz, bluesy Cabaret, and the occasional show tune. Expect her to steam up the room. See Sunday.

were't auctioned the previous September) and their gift baskets (including a dinner date with that Calendar Man) will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. IML '92 Lenny Broberg continues his 10 year tradition as auctioneer. Proceeds from the sale of the Bare Chest Calendar benefit Positive Resource Center and AIDS Emergency Fund. \$8 beer bust. 3-6pm. 398 12th St. Info: [www.somabarechestcalendar.org](http://www.somabarechestcalendar.org)

#### 'Outlook Video' @ Channel 29

"Outlook Video," the SF Bay Area's oldest LGBT news-magazine on community access cable television, broadcasts the first Sunday of the month. The January 2004 cablecast will feature Mr. Gay San Francisco, Angle Dunkelberger; San Jose Councilman Ken Yeager; Palm Springs Gay Pride; Bay Area Bombers roller derby; and DVD reviews of *Soft Hearts*, *Under One Room*, and *The Map of Sex and Love*. 5-5:30pm. SF Comcast Cable channel 29, Access SF. Info: 408-293-3040, ext 205.

## Mon

#### 'Tell It Like It Is' @ Change Makers, Oakland

"Tell It Like It Is... Open Mic for Queer Folks." This month's feature: Colored Ink. Share your words through singing, poetry, comedy, acting, short stories and other creative ways. Sign up with Juicy to present at 650-906-7851; [juicy\\_me@yahoo.com](mailto:juicy_me@yahoo.com). \$3-5 sliding. Every 1st Monday, 7:30-9:30pm. Change Makers (the former location of Mama Bears) at 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Info: [www.changemakersforwomen.com](http://www.changemakersforwomen.com)

## Tue

#### Juan Diego Flórez @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Cal Performances presents a recital by Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flórez, with Vincenzo Salera on piano, featuring works by Schubert, Beethoven, Mozart, Rossini, Massenet, Bizet and Donizetti. Widely acclaimed for his crisp, vivid coloratura and expert ornamentation, Flórez is regarded as one of

the most fluid and remarkable bel canto tenors in the world today. \$32, \$42 & \$56. 8pm. Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley. Tix: 510-642-9988; [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu)

#### 'GenderEnders' @ Cherry Bar

"GenderEnders," a happening featuring transgendered, intersexed, and genderqueer music and spoken word acts. Tonight: kick-ass trans-rock star, filmmaker and activist Shawna Virago (The Deadly Nightshade Family) and the sensational Charlie Anders, the publishing genius, author and satirist behind *Other* magazine, San Francisco's latest, coolest, smartest, queerest literary publication. Plus a performance open mic; so bring your music, spoken word, stand-up comedy, performance art, dance, whatever. Emceed by Julia Serano, the transgendered musician and spoken word artist who conceived "GenderEnders" and has helped organize other SF Bay Area trans-related events. 8:30 pm. 21+. Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom St. Info: [www.genderenders.com](http://www.genderenders.com)

#### Queer Torah Study @ Sha'ar Zahav

Explore Torah from a queer perspective in the "Queer Torah Study Project." Session includes small group activities, chevruta (partner

study and more. \$5 for single sessions. 7-9pm. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St). Info: 861-6932; [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

## Wed

#### Kundalini Yoga @ Lakeshore Church, Oakland

Kundalini Yoga begins today at three East Bay LGBT welcoming and affirming congregations. Kundalini Yoga emphasizes dynamic movement, spinal flexibility, breathwork and elevation of awareness. Wear loose clothing, bring a mat or towel and an empty stomach. Beginners welcome. \$40 for 8-week session; \$8 drop-in. 6:30pm. Lakeshore Ave. Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore, Oakland. Info: 510-841-4339.

## Thu

#### LIT @ JSC

Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) presents LIT @ JSC, readings by writers Nadialec and Mahru Elahi. The readings will be followed by Q&A session, reception for the artists and booksigning.



Join Jon Sugar as he and the Gay Artists and Writers Collective (GAWK) enlighten and entertain, with special guests The Flower Cops, at Magnet. See Saturday.

Nadialec is a queer mixed race Arab American tranny slacker geek who likes books, sex, love, family & other life-affirming activities. He's got a punk-rock past, a lesbian-feminist interlude, and vestigial tendencies from his roots. He's been published in the anthologies *Generation Q* and *Hot Off the Net*, *Trikone*, and the online magazines *Roughriders* and *Bint el Nas*. See [nadialec.com](http://nadialec.com) for more ramblings & writings. Mahru Elahi is a writer and a teacher. She is the author of a kinky graphic novel *The Storm Garden*. She has performed poetry and prose, most recently at La Peña Cultural Center and the Persian Center in Berkeley. Much of her writing deals with growing up as a biracial and Iranian in America. \$7-12 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th Street & South Van Ness). Info/tix/wheelchair access: 554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org).

Wes Hempel @ Jenkins Johnson Gallery  
Opening reception: "Wes Hempel: Revised Endings," featuring works by a painter whose precisionist canvas is bedecked with art historical reference, "imposing contemporary figures into settings either borrowed directly from art history or composed in such a way as to have the look and feel of art historical references." His canvases exude a strong homoeroticism, classical in style yet incorporating modern gay icons. His models are often shirtless and occasionally naked muscular youths with ivory white, smooth skin, whose GQ looks stand out against classical backdrops. Free (illustrated catalog \$25). 5:30-7:30pm. 464 Sutter St. Info: 677-0770; [jenkinsjohnsongallery.com](http://jenkinsjohnsongallery.com)

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# The lavender tube's happy new queer

by Victoria A. Brownworth

**H**appy New Year! What could be more exciting than the clean slate of a new year? *Tabula rasa*. Well, more exciting would be peace on Earth, the end of poverty, violence, all the isms, things like that. More exciting would be an extreme makeover without any pain (it's sick how we love that show, but a guilty pleasure is a guilty pleasure). More exciting would be nothing but queer TV morning, Noon and night (then we'd never get any work done). But barring the kind of social revolution that would bring about any of those changes (and which would require a kind of evolution that would make Darwin's head swivel right off), we must settle for lesser thrills, like that clean slate.

TV proffers its clean slate this month with a new season right around the corner. Expect that after the *ad nauseam* reviews of 2003 are complete, the weeks leading into February sweeps month will bring newsworthy, grittier tabloids, talkier talk, the end to reruns, and the beginning of new shows once more. The most important TV series of 2004 premieres this month in Iowa and New Hampshire: the race for President. Though it will be hard to top the last one, this one promises to be full of more twists than an episode of *The Twilight Zone* (which will be coming to PBS on Sundays starting this month, check local listings), more makeovers than an episode of *Queer Eye*, and more fake smiles than an episode of *Average Joe 2* (which premieres January 5 on NBC and looks like even more of a guilty pleasure than the debut).

The capture of Saddam Hussein remains the big TV story while the networks gear up for new programming. The Saddam

capture has infused TV comedians with great new material, but has also provided really disturbing new poll results. *Nightline* has focused on the capture and its aftermath for most of its programs since Paul Bremer gave his "We got him!" salutation to the press corps on December 14. Catching Saddam didn't just bump Bush up in the polls (as if he were the one who located the spiderhole), it also apparently gave a big memory-wipe worthy of Ben Affleck to a huge percentage of the American population. A *Nightline* poll late last week stated more than 60% of Americans think it no longer matters whether or not weapons of mass destruction are found in Iraq; and most Americans believe the US is safer since Saddam was captured. Just a reminder: Our troops continue to die daily in Iraq because we started a war over WMDs.

## Wrong target

Meanwhile, the prequel to the 2004 made-for-TV miniseries, the Presidential race, has been playing on the tube since Saddam's capture. The Democrats have totally forgotten that their target is George Bush, not Howard Dean. Be prepared to watch the nasty ads slam onto the small screen in record numbers over the next two weeks. Having seen the previews of many of these ads, we can attest to the vitriol. Political ads from other candidates skewer not Bush but Dean, as if it is he who has been running the country into the ground for three and a half years.

Recent televised debates among the Democratic contenders have shown that both Sen. Lieberman and Sen. Kerry could easily work for the Bush team; we

are certain they hate and fear Dean far more than the Republicans. Their sniping at Dean's anti-war stance is edged with bitterness at Dean's grassroots success, and continues to be the subject of every news program dealing with the Democratic race. Expect it to worsen in the next two weeks.

While the Presidential race deserves major TV coverage, we cannot say the same about the big tabloid TV story which will not go away, the Michael Jackson scandal. We've watched

nearly every news, tabloid and talk discourse on the case against Jackson, and we still don't know where to stand, being both against child abuse and against the false targeting of

queers as pedophiles. The case and its coverage have been about as homophobic as can be (with a soupçon of racism tossed in just to make it nice and messy).

Is Jackson a pedophile (worse, one who preys on the extremely vulnerable: sick and poor children)? If the tube is to be believed, the answer is a resounding yes. But can we believe what we see on TV regarding this case?

ABC has provided the most balanced coverage, with *20/20* and *PrimeTime* episodes in the last two weeks devoted to interviews with Jackson's parents, brothers and nieces and nephews. *Extra* and *Good Morning America* have interviewed various other folks connected to Jackson. All have steadfastly asserted he is innocent of all charges. Jackson's attorney has held press conferences almost daily which make it onto every nightly tabloid show. This story makes the icky Kobe Bryant case look neat and tidy.

Speaking of neat and tidy, Martha Stewart gave a starkly candid (some might say suicidal) interview to *Larry King Live* last week which nearly had us weeping. She was so sad, describing her solitary and scary Christmas, anticipating prison. We admit that

before Paris Hilton, Martha was our rich-girl guilty pleasure. We still love watching her show (particularly the pet segments with the gayest men anywhere on TV), which continues to be very good. We wonder if it can be broadcast from prison.

Unfortunately for Miss Martha, she is so arrogant and unlikable that many people want to see her go down just for that. The facts don't seem to matter much. She's her own worst enemy as she gives these interviews. The common folk have a hard time getting empathetic with fallen millionaires.

## Double trouble

Speaking of empathy, we must now recommend the VCR come out for Thursday nights, because the competition between two queer-friendly shows is too high. *ER* has long been a dynamic queer-friendly presence on NBC, with a retinue of queer storylines, characters and actors. But in the same time slot on CBS (yes, CBS) is the ever-improving *Without a Trace*, which last week did the best queer drama we've seen off cable. The show (which is a police procedural about an FBI missing-persons unit) dealt with the double life of a missing executive. The man was married, his wife about to give birth, but he was on the verge of coming out of the closet after having had an affair with a male co-worker for over a year and having fought his own queer identity since a high school affair. A high school reunion catalyzed the action (which included the main character apologizing to a classmate who had been out in high school and been harassed).

We can't recall such a provocative telling of the calamities that come from a life lived in the closet. *Without a Trace* (its stellar ensemble cast led by Anthony LaPaglia) covered all aspects of the situation: the conflict between the two lovers, the impact on the wives, the difficulty coming out in the corporate world. There was male-male kissing and touching (we love this on network TV). But most importantly, there was no

judgment of the gay men, nor of their wives, nor of the other characters who knew and kept the secrets. Provocative, compelling and deeply moving, this was an Emmy-worthy episode. Watch *ER*, but tape *Without a Trace*. An episode as multifaceted as this is no fluke.

We also recommend another CBS show, *Cold Case*, which airs on that most problematic of TV nights, Sunday. We liked *Cold Case* when it premiered, but we hadn't seen it much since then. A strong ensemble cast and solid stories told with a gritty edge make this a show to watch. Just stay tuned after *60 Minutes*.

We have to recant our criticisms of *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. Well, maybe not recant. But the show has improved exponentially in the past two months, and is now worthy of watching, at least the opening monologue and headline section, both of which have been absolutely hilarious in recent weeks. We still find the show caters too much to a 15-year-old male sensibility, but there are now reasons to recommend it. The week before Christmas, Kimmel had as his co-host Lenny Clarke from *It's All Relative*, who did a few turns on the streets of LA talking to queers about the show and apologizing for his character's boorish anti-gay behavior. Very interesting.

Finally, things continue to heat up on *All My Children* for a big February sweeps push about Michael Cambia's murder, Bianca's baby, and Bianca and Lena. We admit to being captivated by the machinations in this storyline, which now includes some jealousy from previously straight Maggie over Bianca's renewed relationship with Lena. We liked Bianca explaining to Maggie that she wasn't sure she could sleep with Lena while she was pregnant. How's that for provocative?

Of course, the L show will be coming to cable in a nanosecond, and we'll keep you abreast. Meanwhile, let's hope the network execs all made the same New Year's resolution: More queer TV. Stay tuned. ▼



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## Castro pictorial

### Arts cover

David Nahmod: Where are you from originally?

Strange de Jim: I'm from West Virginia, where I acquired this air of sophistication you've no doubt noticed!

What brought you here?

I was in New York. Rex Reed and Truman Capote were writing about *The Cockettes*. This sounded like a fun place to be, so I came here to check things out.

And what did you think?

First impression was *Whoa!* Small town, easy to get around, lots of gay guys!

What's your real name?

Strange de Jim.

You make a living as a B.A.R. message advertiser?

No, I make a living betting people it's my real name. I bet them that I could cash a check made out to Strange de Jim. I can't use my other real name, Brad Pitt, because more people would confuse us, and I'm confused enough already!



Author and wit Strange de Jim with Australian housewife Dame Edna

How did the book come about?

Bruce Bellingham recommended me.

Was anything censored?

Only one thing. I wrote a caption for a picture of Most Holy Redeemer: "At 80% gay, the gayest church in the world outside of the Vatican!" They took out the Vatican reference.

The editor said, "This isn't like our other *Images of America* books!"

The photos are amazing. How did you find them?

Daniel Nicoletta, keeper of the Harvey Milk Archives, took me under his wing and opened the archives. The LGBT Historical Society let me go through their files, and Rink the photographer was

most helpful. I found photos of the Peaches Dream Gallery, the Castro's first gay-owned business!

What inspired you to take on such a monumental project?

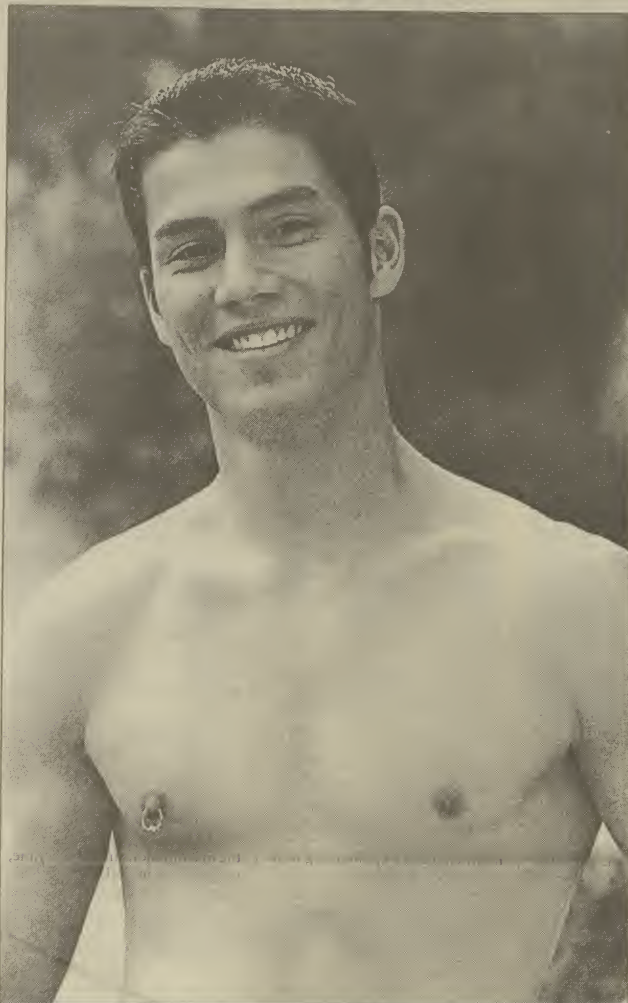
My love of the neighborhood, and they asked me!

What do you do if people ask for your ID?

I show it to them. If I show it real fast, it looks Strange! ▼

**Images of America: San Francisco's Castro** is available at Cliff's Variety and A Different Light. For more information on the author, visit <http://members.aol.com/strangeastro>

# BAR TALK



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## PARTING GLANCES

**JOHN AT THE PENDULUM ON 12-6**  
We talked about your friend the "social butterfly." I lost your number!  
☎ 71019

**Lady Macbeth 2nd Intermission 11/14**  
You (Handsome bear type) standing on the first floor wearing brown shirt. I (Filipino-American) was leaving. Our eyes met, lingered. Are you "moistanddeep"? I'd like to meet! Please call. ☎ 71009

**Blow Buddies Friday Nov. 28**  
You bare-chested/shaved head, slim: me bare-chested with glasses. Would like to meet you. We cruised, but did not meet each other. ☎ 71000

**Ricardo**  
We met waiting for the "F" line at Castro about 7 pm. I was heading for an art opening. Let's continue our conversation. Ernie. ☎ 71001

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Seeking Friendship**  
GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. Over 21. ☎ 71026

**Looking For Mr. Right East Bay**  
You honest, sincere, stable, good guy. Single white male, HIV- between 35 to 50 years, friendship long term. Me single white male HIV- 43 years, Gemini. Good guy friendship long term. ☎ 71025

**Successful Gay White Male**  
for Gay Asian male. I'm 47 5' 10" tall, 160 lbs. brown hair and eyes. Interested in a LTR with a responsible Asian male 18-35. I enjoy skiing, water skiing, horse back riding, volleyball and I love life to the fullest. S 71027

**Looking for Friendship or More**  
GJM, 37 yo, 5'7", 142# Bm hair and eyes, stable and sincere, romantic, nice, smooth body seeking GWM or GLM. I like all types of Guys under 45. Must be serious, no drugs or heavy drinkers. ☎ 71010

**Life is about Sharing**  
GJM, 37 yo, 5'7", 142# Bm hair and eyes, stable and sincere, professional GM who seeks friendship/relationship. Live 90 minutes outside of SF. Will relocate for "The real Thing". ☎ 71012

**Free Spaghetti**  
Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact. ☎ 72907

**Snuggler- (not smuggler!) Seeks**  
companion - Southern Contra Costa (Alamo, Danville, WC) for warm nights together. Interest in Trains, Trams, Travel, Opera, Symphony, Asian Languages, Love, love, love! ☎ 71002

**CRAVING AFFECTION?**  
Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding friend to talk to, share experiences, and be held and touched. Slim, masculine guy 44 seeks another slim guy 18 to 40's. Any race. ☎ 71021

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE



**MASCULINE GAM 150 GWM**  
Gym toned, easy going, sincere guy seeks GWM between 37-50 to date on a regular basis. You should be in-shape, hairy a plus. ☎ 71020

**Looking for Mister Right**  
Me 40+ mix brown, 5'9", 160#, 81/2", Enjoy work, fucking. Will respond to everybody. ☎ 71011

**Handsome Libra Looking for Love**  
HIV+ GWM, SF, Likes music, art. Looking for more than a one night stand. No drugs, pot ok... 6' Br Hr, Br eyes ☎ 71003

## LESBIANS

**Lonely in Reno Need a PenPal**  
Single white lesbian looking to converse with any single women with hopes of possibly something more. I enjoy camping, horses, and spooky movies. No drugs or heavy drinkers. ☎ 72904

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**GJM into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b**  
worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimp to both of us. ☎ 71029

**Nude Psychotherapy**  
Lay on my couch naked while trim amateur psychiatrist 44 listens to your problems and sexual fantasies. Free therapy for trim wasted guys under 45. ☎ 71028

**Spank your Butt...**  
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71013

**Fat & Chubby Men & Dildoes**  
Looking to start a regular dildo party with big men. Hefty GJM, 5'11", 270#, big tits, hung, seeks big, fat men who like their bodies and like dildoes. ☎ 71014

**Older**  
I love older men and women. I am 52, in decent shape, clean, educated and horny. Will treat you well. ☎ 71015

**On call Free Oral Servicing**  
GWM will BJ/Rim/JO/Massage an hour minimum For incredible release. No reciprocation necessary. All Races welcome but must be 18-28, healthy, fit. Santa Cruz Area. Stay the Night?? ☎ 71004

**REDHEAD**  
SWM, 42, 5'10", 178#, ex Navy. Enjoys talk radio, tennis, chess, yardwork, and pet cat. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71022

**Novice Curious Nudist**  
Seeking more experienced buddy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK, but mostly j/o. Your place pm preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, titts, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes or overnites encouraged. Like to explore being nude with another man w/o the pressure of performing in a oral/anal manner. ☎ 71005

**Need a Dad??**  
Clean, healthy 68yo G.W. Masculine dad needs you too! Please be B/G, W. Masculine and over 40/40. ☎ 71006

**WEEKDAY MORNING JO**  
Looking for nice "average Joe" 40-55 who would like to come over & let me show it to you. Touch it, bounce it, join me. I'm 40 tall HIV+ nice package. Come jack with me. ☎ 71023

**HOT PASSIONATE EAST BAY BOTTOM**  
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## FETISHES

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Do you get horny, but don't get hard due to performance pressures, inhibitions, drugs, meds? No problem! Crazy about 69ing on limp dick. Prefer GWM like me; tall, inshape, hairy, mature, poz. ☎ 71030

**ISO Serious Nipple Work out Buddy**  
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**Feet and Ass Wanted**  
I want to suck and sniff your feet while I stretch your ass with my fist. Very discreet. ☎ 71017

**Nipples- Solid Workouts on Firm**  
Hard nipples. Serious to sensual long sessions with mutual satisfaction. No losers, we both win, GWM, 40's seeks same. ☎ 71018

**Stroking for Hours**  
Seeking masculine/average buddy for heavy intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship while drinking/partying. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long party scenes or overnites only. S 71007

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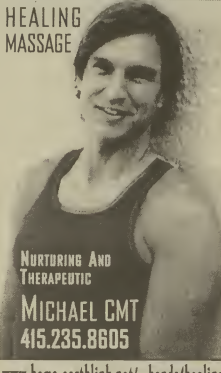
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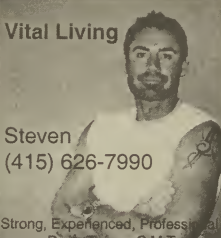
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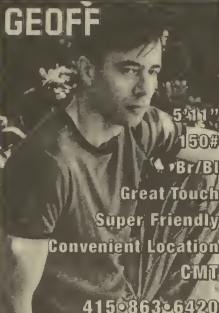
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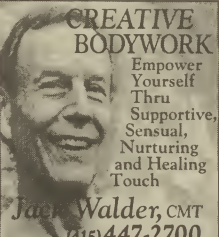


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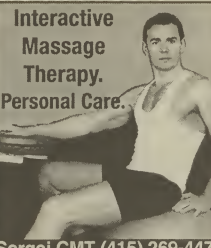
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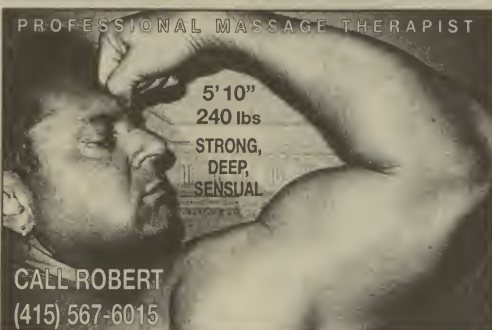
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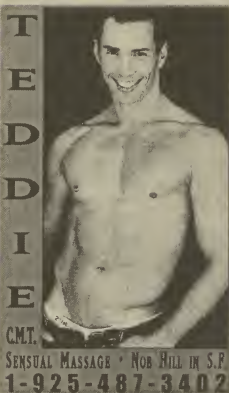
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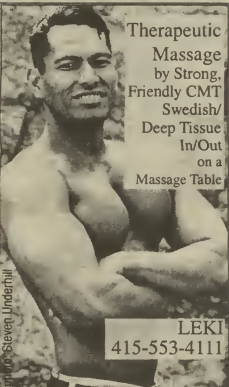
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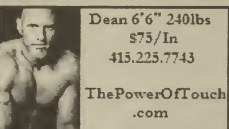
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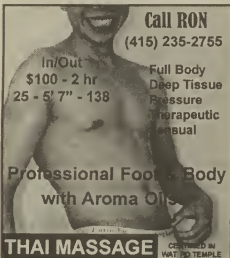
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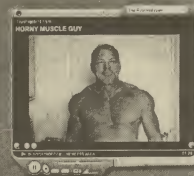
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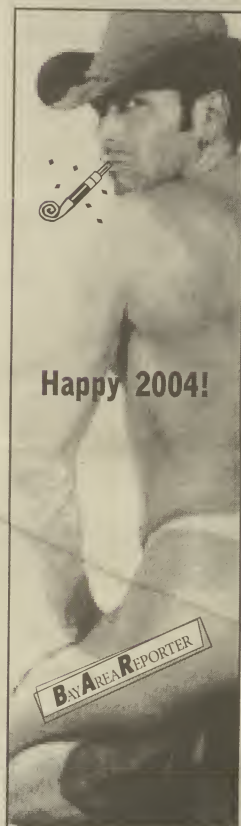


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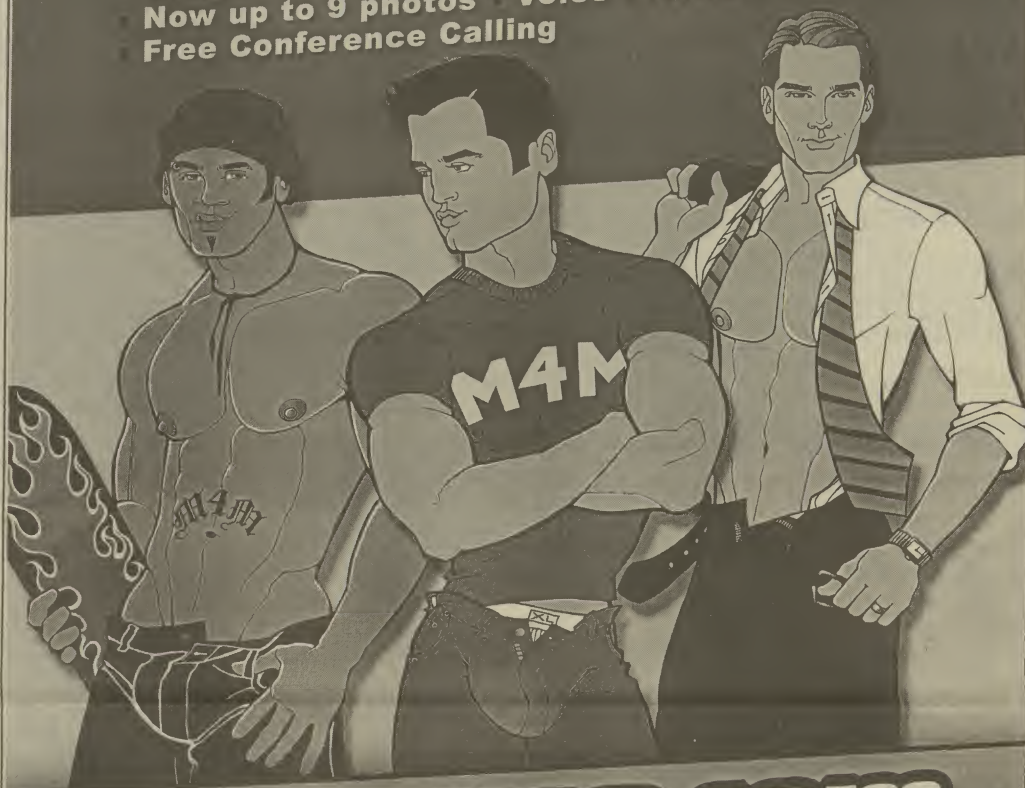
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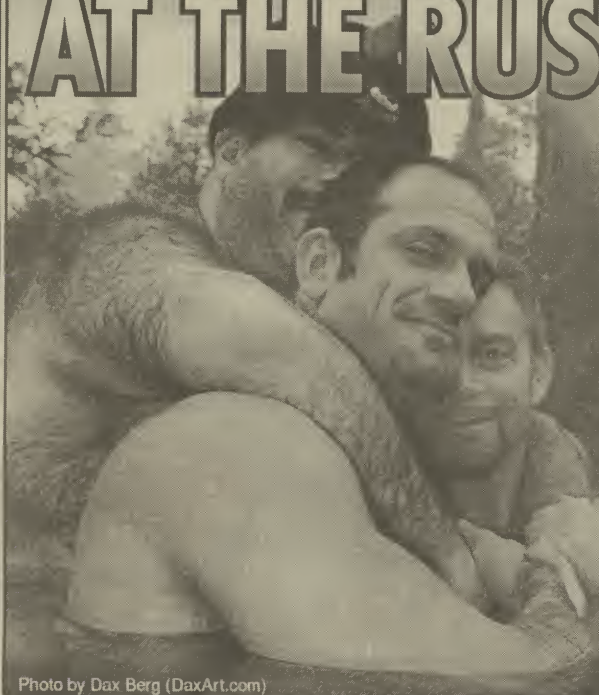


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